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ABSTRACT

These seven papers delivered by representatives of library associations from Norway, Hungary, Singapore, Czechoslovakia, the United States, and Latin America describe activities, trends, and developments within local, regional, and national library associations. Included are: "Library Associations on the Move," by K. Torp; "The Role of the Association of Hungarian Librarians in Forming the National Library Policy," by Dr. J. Zsidai; "Library Association of Singapore on the Move," by Wee Joo Gim; "Advisory Library Bodies in the CSSR," by Dr. Helena Kolarova-Palkova; "Local and Regional Library Associations: Views Beyond National Library Associations' Boundaries," by Peggy Sullivan; "The Characteristics of National Professional Associations in the Library/Information Fields," by Josephine Riss Fang; and "National and Regional Cooperation Regarding Libraries in Latin America," by Lucila M. de Jimenez. (JL)

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

47th Annual Conference Papers

Library Associations on the Move
(Plenary Session)

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IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION:

SECTION:

Library Associations on the Move (Plenary meeting)

19/LIBAS/1E

Library Associations on the Move

by
K. Torp, President of the Norwegian
Library Association

It is nice meeting you all, friends from library associations all over the world.

The discussion of a separate and suitable forum for the library associations within IFLA is very important - and The Norwegian Library Association has followed the debate with great interest. I am very glad of this opportunity to give some information about The Norwegian Library Association's (NLA's) activities.

Norway is a small country of about 324.000 square kilometres, with about 4 million inhabitants. The topography of Norway shows a mountainous country with lots of fjords and an abundance of small and big islands. It is, consequently, not a simple task to organise a library system presenting an equally good and proper library offer for everybody.

I shall try to give a short account of how our library association works, the questions on which we concentrate our efforts - and the objectives and wishes we have.

For parts of our activities we think we have arrived at appropriate and good solutions. In other fields we find that we are not equal to the tasks, and we have to face that there are tasks which we need help to carry out. I feel sure that a number of approaches to identical problems have presented themselves within most library associations and The Norwegian Library Association will no doubt benefit greatly from close cooperation with the library associations connected with IFLA.

During recent years there has been a close and efficient contact between the national library associations in our five Nordic countries. In spite of relatively great differences in both structure and financial situation we have profited greatly professionally from the cooperative work and this has particularly given inspiration to efforts in the domestic field. The Norwegian Library Association has also established contacs with IFLA as a member of several Sections and looks upon cooperation in the professional field and the field of library policy as particularly important.

It is therefore - for us - a natural and happy development that we are now assembling and continuing the discussion in Manila of the establishing of a separate forum for library association questions within the framework of IFLA.

In order to clarify from which angle I look upon the library association work it is necessary to say a few words about my connection with The Norwegian Library Association. I have had honorary functions within the Association since 1977 and have been its Chairman since 1980, for a little more than one year, that is. I am not a trained librarian. I am a local government politician with special interest in and responsibility for library and cultural questions in a neighbouring municipality to Norway's capital, Oslo.

In the material presented you will find all facts about the Norwegian Library Association, and I am not going to spend time repeating these.
From my knowledge of some other library associations I want to emphasize what I think is special about The Norwegian Library Association and also mention ways of operation, its objectives and perceptible problems.
There are a number of matters which it is natural for national library associations to take up. Which of these one wants to concentrate upon will depend on a number of circumstances, for instance the size of the association and financial situation, status in the national library environment and the organs one otherwise has to attend to common tasks.

The Norwegian Library Association is an inclusive organisation uniting both library workers, libraries and institutions from all the professional fields - (that is university libraries, special and research libraries and public and school libraries).

The Norwegian Library Association is an organisation for promoting purposes of library policy. Questions of salary and work agreements are taken care of by a number of different trade unions. We have in The Norwegian Library Association quite a special situation as our four big trade unions for library workers are collectively affiliated to our association. This is an arrangement which

we do not know is practiced elsewhere. This coming together within The Norwegian Library Association in reality means that statements from the Executive Board of our association represent the entire Norwegian library environment. We have been working continually on our present organisational structure since 1973, and are inclined to think that we have established a relationship of trust and cooperation between the various professional fields and various groupings.
We are not unfamiliar with the fact that to sum up the views of workers and employers may be somewhat difficult at times - but in a small environment like ours close cooperation is a condition to achieve the results and reach the goals wished for.
Cooperation is the key word distinguishing the activities of NLA, within the organisation and in relation to the central national organs. Contact with and information to State institutions for school and public libraries (that is the Directorate for Public and School Libraries) and special and research libraries (that is the National Office of Research and Special Libraries) as well as the State School of Librarianship and The Norwegian Library Bureau are of vital importance for the work of the organisation. (I suppose I ought to make you aware that we in Norway have only <u>one</u> School of Librarianship and <u>one</u> Library Bureau).

In the NLA we have deliberately decentralized the responsibility for professional activities such as courses, seminars and conferences so that the individual members may profit from professional influence, contact and development in their own immediate surroundings. Each year one or two national meetings are held. Those are the General Council meeting every other year which all members may attend and yearly professional meetings for the Association's sections. Other meetings and arrangements are launched under the direction of regional unions, sections and special groups. Care is taken to scatter meeting activities geographically throughout the country.

<u>Relations to the Association's members and to the Norwegian library environment.</u>

All of NLA's organs (that is 19 regional unions, 4 sections and 5 special groups) are governed by their own boards which have a free hand professionally in relation to the Executive Board of

the Association. Great emphasis is placed on the best possible contact and information between all the units within the Association. An exchange of reports from meetings forms the basis for a more direct contact in individual matters. A number of the questions taken up by the Executive Board have been initiated and furthered by individual members and by groupings.

As often as finances permit contact meetings are held of representatives of the various organs of the Association and members of the Executive Board. The aim is to arrange such meetings each year.

The current contact with and information to individual members is implemented through our member's paper "Internal Contact". This is not a library-professional periodical in the traditional sense with long articles, book reviews, etc., but as its name implies it is a contact organ with information about activities taking place in the various organs of the Association, important events in the Norwegian library field and announcements of a more traditional character. There are 6 issues yearly, and for practical reasons the paper is also used when matters are to be taken to hearing with the members. Only in exceptional cases is information given by letter to each member.

A great portion of the working hours in the Secretariat is given up to intermediary activities, to the establishing of contacts and the giving of information. These tasks are given high priority by the Executive Board.

NLA also publishes an ordinary yearly almanac which is sold at cost to its members. The almanac contains a supplement giving important information about the Norwegian library system and the NLA itself.

Other very important tasks are outreach activities such as promoting the further development of the library profession, taking the initiative with various authorities and also the writing of reports on various subjects as well as public relation efforts. Due to lack of resources, however, it has as yet not been possible to give due attention to these tasks.

The object clause of the NLA states that the Association shall further the development of the Norwegian library system. To comply with this extensive professional and library-political activities are necessary. This again implies the necessity of great efforts on the part of the Executive Board and those who have honorary functions within the Association and it also requires a well built and well organised Secretariat. Ultimately, this is a question of finances.
The members of the Executive Board of NLA work in accordance with "the principle of free services". The idea is excellent and in my opinion it is right that it should be so. Experience has shown, however, that as time goes by people have less time and energy to spare for organisational work of this kind. Most probably the idea will force its way through that honorary functions ought to be paid for, particularly out of consideration for employers and their patience. Voluntary organisational work takes up an enormous amount of time - we all know something about that!

We also know that a well built and well organised Secretariat is the key to any professional and library-political progress. This is once again a question of resources. Without financial support from the State we cannot today see any possibility of reaching our goals and implementing our work programme. This is no doubt a common problem for most library associations. We in NLA will - speaking for ourselves - follow this up and in this period apply to the public authorities for State support to management and to the various activities of the Association, with a view to, amongst other things, international cooperation and travels both in our own country and abroad.

Compared to many other library associations the NLA is a small association of modest resources. We are nevertheless very ambitious on behalf of the Norwegian library system and wish to keep up and improve the professional level. The fact that one springs from a small environment should not prevent a person from active contribution to international cooperation in this field. Of that both the former and the present IFLA President should be sufficient proof.

In my judgement there is a great need for a cooperative organ for library associations and I think it is natural that such an organ should be established within the framework of IFLA. Those of us who have the responsibility for the daily management of national associations may learn from each other's experience and take home inspiration as to how to approach our tasks. Each individual member may benefit from international courses and seminars in any field. We ought to set about the formal establishing as soon as possible and in the papers given by Russell Bowden and Robert Wedgeworth in Manila we have an excellent basis to work from.

Who shall participate in an organisation for contact and cooperation between library associations?

As far as I understand one has in mind in particular those who are employed in library associations regardless of the size and organisation of the Secretariat. For The Norwegian Library Association it would be natural to include members of the Executive Board. The Executive Boards draw the outlines for the associations' activities and are responsible for the implementation of their tasks. No doubt they need the information and inspiration they can get through contact with board members from other countries. It should be up to each association to choose the persons best qualified at any given time to represent the national association in an international connection. I see no reason for establishing two separat groups in this field. As in so many of life's situations it may prove very useful to include people representing different points of view.

My warm thanks to those persons who have taken up this question and my best wishes to those who will be given the responsibility for establishing a common forum for library association questions.

F A C T S

A B O U T

THE NORWEGIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

THE NORWEGIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (NLA) was founded in 1913 and is a free and independent national union which has as its objective the development of the Norwegian library system. After a reorganisation and an expansion in 1973 the organisational pattern is as follows:

MEMBERSHIP

As members of the NLA are admitted all parties interested, both individuals, libraries and institutions. Personal members may be connected with the Association directly or through membership of one of the 4 collectively affiliated trade unions: Municipal Library Workers' Association, Norwegian Librarians' Union, the Norwegian Part-time Librarians' Union and the Association of Norwegian Research Librarians. Questions of salary are taken care of by the separate trade unions.

GOVERNING BODIES

The supreme authority of The Norwegian Library Association is the General Council. General Council meetings are held every other year, and between Councils the Association is governed by an Executive Board consisting of 9 members, who are responsible for the daily activity.

ORGANISATIONAL PATTERN

The mass of members are organised in sections, regional unions and special groups. Each member automatically becomes a member of a section and a regional union.

THE SECTIONS

All members belong to one of the 4 Sections - according to their field of work or field of interest.

Section 1: For Special and Research Librarians

Personal members of the Association of Norwegian Research Librarians are collectively affiliated. The Section also comprises personal members who work in or are interested in the work in special and research libraries. Special and research libraries and institutional members who do not belong in Section 4 are connected with this Section.

Section 2: For Public Librarians

The members of Municipal Library Workers' Accociation and the Norwegian Librarians' Union are collectively affiliated. The Section also comprises personal members working in or who are interested in the work in large size public and school libraries.

Section 3: For Part-time Librarians

The members of the Norwegian Part-time Librarians' Union are collectively affiliated. The Section also comprises personal members connected with part-time library work or who are interested in the work in smaller units.

Section 4: For Public and School Libraries

Institutional members. In the main municipal and county libraries , that is public and school libraries represented by the organ elected by popular vote under which they come.

REGIONAL UNIONS

On the local level the Association works through regional unions athwart of sections and all of NLA's members in a certain geographical area (most often a county) are automatically members of the regional union. At present there are 19 regional unions at work.

THE SPECIAL GROUPS

NLA now has 4 Special Groups and one which is in the process of being established. These groups are open to all of the Association's members and a small additional subscription due is charged for the Special Group(s) of which one wishes to become a member.

The Special Groups are:

The Special Group for Outreach Library Activities

The Special Group for Library Service to Children and Young People

The Special Group for Medical Library Activity

The Special Group for Library Activity in Schools of Further Education

The Special Group for Library Activity in the Basic School (in the process of being established)

Membership of The Norwegian Library Association provides contact with the entire library environment of the country and provides also a close contact in one's own local surroundings. In addition to the professional activities prepared for by the main association both the Sections, the Regional Unions and the Special Groups arrange courses, conferences and study tours as well as professional meetings and meetings on matters of library policy.
Membership also covers subscription to the periodical "Bok og Bibliotek" ("Book and Library") published by the State Directorate for Public and School Libraries and the NLA's member's paper "Internal Contact". The NLA runs an intermediary office for periodicals through which libraries and institutions can obtain about 10% discount on all Norwegian periodicals.

The Norwegian Library Association works to raise the professional level in our library environment and has for many years been in charge of the publishing of important professional literature. The General Council decides on a policy plan drawing up the main lines for the work of the Association in the two-year period between General Councils.
The NLA has established a good contact with the national library associations of the Nordic countries and is a member of The Norden Association. It has for many years been a member of IFLA and participates actively in the work of this organisation.

THE PRESENT PLAN OF POLICY (in force until the General Council in 1982).

The object clause of The Norwegian Library Association states that the NLA shall work to promote the development of the Norwegian library system. There are, therefore, a number of questions which must be taken up as a matter of course. In addition the Association intends to and does concentrate

its activities on the following 6 points.

a. Work to strengthen the position of libraries in schools and teaching and in the field of research.

b. Give special attention to the problems and requirements of the small library units.

c. Work to improve the library offer to children and young people.

d. Work to ensure that special groups of people (e.g. disabled people, languages minorities) shall have a better library offer.

e. To take up questions of personnel and also professional matters in connection with the adoption of computer technology in the libraries.

f. To participate actively in Nordic and international cooperation in the library field.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

As per January 1, 1981 the NLA has 3396 members which are spread as follows:

The Section for Special and Research Libraries		
Personal members	721	
Libraries and institutions	122	843
The Section for Public Librarians		
Personal members		1281
The Section for Part-time Librarians		
Personal members		530
The Section for Public and School Libraries		
Public Libraries	354	
County Libraries	21	
School Libraries	358	742
		3396

FINANCIAL SITUATION

The Norwegian Library Association's budget for 1981 amounts to Norw. Kr. 656.000,- equivalent to about 120.000 US $. The income comes in the main from subscription dues of which dues from libraries and institutions make up the biggest share. The Association receives no support from the government.

SECRETARIAT

The Norwegian Library Association rents office rooms (about 50 square metres) from The Norwegian Library Bureau in Oslo.

Personnel: Permanently employed are a secretary in three quarters of a post and an office clerk in one half of a post. With some extra help and assistance the staff normally adds up to 2 full posts.
In the intermediary office for periodicals is employed a manager who occasionally gets some help and assistance.

IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION:

SECTION:

Library Associations on the Move (Plenary meeting)

66/LIBAS/2E

The Role of the Association of Hungarian Librarians in forming the national library policy

by
Dr. J. ZSIDAI
President of the Association
of Hungarian Librarians

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IFLA Council 1981

The role of the Association of Hungarian Librarians in forming the national library policy

by

Dr.ZSIDAI József, President of the Association of Hungarian Librarians

The Association of Hungarian Librarians is an organization of great traditions. Since 1935, the foundation year, the Association has worked continuously, with the exception of shorter or longer intervals. During this rather long period the organizational frames, the areas and methods of the activities of the Association took shape.

In Hungary there are about 10 500 persons working in libraries as employees of main occupation, and 3 500 of them are members of the Association, i.e. every third employee takes part in the activities of this professional organization. There are regional sections in each county and there are also specific sections according to the professional fields of the participating libraries, i.e. there are sections for the children's librarians, special librarians for both the fields of sciences and social sciences, for the music librarians, etc.

The work of the Association is controlled by a presidium of 25 members. The president and the members of the presidium are elected by the conference of the delegates by secret ballott for three years. While the presidium is the policy making body, the actual organizational work is done by the secretariat, headed by an also elected general secretary. None of the officials receive any fees for their activities for the Association.

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This organized professional Association of 3 500 members is a strong body influencing the planning, realizing and controlling of the national library policy as well as the development of the librarianship as a career, and the social prestige of the librarians, and thus the professional feelings of the librarians.

The making of the comprehensive library policy on national level is a state responsibility and on the basis of the laws of the state it is exercised by the Ministry of Education on the highest level. The main intention of the Ministry on this field is to set aims pointing ahead which are the best for the libraries to meet the social needs which can be realized at the same time. That is why before decision making the Ministry needs information at least from two directions: it must know on the one hand the social /scientific, economic, educational, etc./ needs and on the other hand it must be aware of the conditions of the realization both from financial and manpower aspects.

The social processes, trends and the human factors to be considered before creating a long range library policy are given, even if they can not be easily defined. At any rate the government level control of the national production, the research and educational policy and the continuous education are the basic concepts to be kept in mind. These are the principal bases of the library policy. Since the Ministry of Education is only partly responsible for these definitive duties, it naturally cooperates with other government agencies, ministries, authorities of national responsibilities and those of exercising control above several economic branches.

This approach in itself however is not enough to develop an efficient library policy. In order to provide the necessary professional background several advisory bodies are organized to help the Ministry's work, such as the National Library Council, the Board of University Library Directors, the Board of County Library Directors, the Council of the Directors of Central Trade Union Libraries. These bodies are participating in solving the most important library problems. Beside all, these efforts the support from the Association of Hungarian Librarians, the largest national professional organization, remains essential.

The state control is aware of the fact that no successful library policy can be realized on a narrow basis: any policy can prove successful and efficient only if they can be realized, and the aims to be reached are realistic. A policy like this cannot be developed without the active participation of the professionals of the field. The decisive role of the Association in this process lies in the fact that, through its own different sections, it can influence the professionals to accept the national library policy, help its realization and at the same time it can provide a feed-back concerning the actual results of the decisions of national level. There are three reasons for involving the librarians in each important step of the decision making: they provide the most important and pertinent information in the course of the preparation of the decisions; they are the best experts of the conditions of the realization of the decisions; and if they feel that they are parts of the decision-making, they are much keener to realize the decisions.

The favourable situation that the Association is a partner of the Ministry in creating, realizing and developing a rational library policy has emerged as a necessity also in Hungary. The cultural management and the Association feels the necessity of a constructive cooperation fruitful for both partners in the solution of the problems which need consultations both from the points of view of the state responsibilities and the interests of the society.

The Association, due among others to its social character, of course is not able to deal with all the problems of librarianship on the same level. The Association of the Hungarian Librarians deals primarily with two significant group of problems: the basic problem of librarianship, and the librarian, his social position and role. The Association is active in rising the most actual problems of librarianship, in proposing solutions of the given problem and its aim is to make the librarians solve real social problems.

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The main areas of the Association's activity related to library policy making

1. Participation in decision making of national level related to librarianship

This kind of activity of the Association is rather complex, so here I can speak only of some of the most characteristic features.

On the basis of the suggestions of the members it is generally the presidium that selects the most important problems to be discussed by different meetings. There are several kinds of meetings but the most significant of them is the itinerary congress held in August each year. The central topics of these congresses of the last five years were the following:

1976: The public relations of the libraries
1977: The relations between the statute of public education and the instruction of the advanced socialist society
1978: The role, significance and main trends of development of the library and information services
1979: The labour and profile sharing and cooperation among the libraries for economy and greater efficiency
1980: The development of the Hungarian librarianship in the last decade /1971-1980/; the realization of the recommendations of the Third National Conference on Librarianship.

The topic of the next congress this year will be the long range programme of the development of the Hungarian librarianship.

From the above enumeration it is obvious that topics of first rate national significance are selected by the presidium, and that the selected topics are often important from international aspects as well. In the course of the debates all the participants have the possibility to make their comments and recommendations. The Ministry representatives also take part in almost every meeting. Besides the complete materials of the annual congresses are regularly published. Problems of the profession and the ideas and recommendations aiming at their solution are amply discussed

in the professional and daily papers as well which regularly give accounts about the congresses and other meetings.

Beside the selection of the topics for the congresses there are some other fields where the Association, in cooperation with the Ministry, could significantly contribute to the solving of important professional questions or suggest possible ways of solution and of these fields the following ones can be mentioned: updating the training of librarians on university level, the improvement of the learning material; organization of the Fourth National Conference on Librarianship; the analysis and improvement of the international relations of the profession with a special respect to the Association's participation in IFLA's work, etc.

2. The present situation and improvement of the professional training

The initiatives for the improvement of the university level training of the librarians were briefly mentioned above. Similar efforts are made however to improve the college level professional training and the training of library technicians. In this matter the Association tries to compile and synthetize the extremely varied needs set against these types of training and then make the ministry and the institutions, where the training is done, aware of these various needs. The problems of training are continuously kept in mind by the Association because the profession's social prestige and the place of librarianship within the hierarchy of sciences significantly depends on the level of the professional training.

3. The safeguarding of interests and its relations with the extension training

In our opinion the safeguarding of interests by no means can be simplified to the problems of working conditions and wages. The professional interests are interpreted by the Association in a much wider sense, since successful safeguarding of interests within the whole society is possible only in that case if the society considers efficient, and that is why important, the per-

formance of the profession. That is why everything must be done to improve the efficiency of the librarians' activities. Practice has often proved that the "verbal" declaration of the importance of the work of the libraries led to recognition neither among the sponsors, nor among the users; the rank of the profession and the higher social prestige of the librarians can be secured only by providing quick, businesslike and solid services. That is why the Association considers its basic task the increase of the level of the professional performance, and as a contribution to fulfill this task, among others, it increases the level of the professional extension training.

Safeguarding of interests and the extension training are strongly related. The extension training within the Association focuses first of all on the novelties and the main trends of development; on intriducing the best Hungarian and foreign methods and achievements /e.g. UNISIST, UBC, UAP, MARC programmes, and the participation in them/; on introducing the international systems of cooperation; on the construction of up-to-date library buildings; on problems of supplying the users with the pertinent special literature, etc. The frames and methods of this extension training is varied and depen on the theme: it includes the already above mentioned congress, lectures within the regional and special sections, round-table discussions, study tours in Hungary and abroad, etc.

As for the lectures we have to mention that beside the Hungarian experts several outstanding foreign professionals are also invited to lecture on different problems.

Speaking of the relations between the extension training and the forming of the library policy it should be also noted that in the library field there are no state organized extension training forms in Hungary similar to those which exist and florish in the fields of medicine or engineering. Thus, through its training activities, the Association has a very significant role in spreading the up-to-date methods. It is our experience that the well organized extension training strongly stimulates the quicker professional improvement.

It does not mean of course that the Association does not consider the safeguarding of the interests of the professionals to be its duty in the narrower sense as well. Through its informational activity towards the sponsors and supervising bodies, the Association significantly contributes to the preparation and introduction of comprehensive wage revisions. In the early 1970s the Association played an important role in founding the highest Hungarian professional decoration, the "Szabó Ervin Medal" and since its foundation from year to year the Association makes suggestions for the persons to be honored by the medal. Librarians playing active parts in the life of the Association are also often officially recognized by the Ministry.

4. Stimulation of the interlibrary cooperation

Members of the Association think that the situation and standard of the library cooperation is one of the key factors and at the same time the vulnerable spot of the further development of the librarianship in Hungary. The facts, that a characteristic feature of the Hungarian library system is the large scale frittering away; that the autonomy of the small libraries, unable to do independent work economically, results in unnecessary overlappings; that in many cases the development of the small libraries is much quicker without any reason than that of the large libraries of central duties which have the greatest importance from the point of view of the literary supply on national level; all indicate the weight of the problem.

Modern library services can be realized more and more only through national and international systems of cooperation, and the literary supply connected to these services, due to the ever increasing costs, urges the librarians to choose the way of resource sharing, so that to reach the concentrated optimum use of the financial means.

5. Cultivation of the professional heritage

Librarianship is not among the most attractive professions in Hungary, and this causes serious problems in forming the library policy. In 1978 the government emphasized that the extensive

development on both the economic and cultural fields should be replaced by intensive development. It is obvious that without an advanced library background it is impossible to realize this programme, so a fall-back in providing the highly qualified professionals causes serious problems. Partly for this reason and partly to preserve the professional values of the past the Association considers the cultivation of the traditions to be very important. By this we should like to make the profession more attractive for both the present and the future generations of the librarians. On the occasion of the significant anniversaries commemorative meetings are held by the Association, which also takes part in the jubilees of persons and institutions, makes proposals to set memorial tablets, to found scholarship and decorations. Living classics of the field are also invited to meetings and are invited to lecture on different professional problems.

6. International relations

The maintenance and extension of the international professional relations is an extremely important task of the whole Hungarian librarianship, and within this that of the Association as well. These relations are consistently two-directional and have double significance: on the one hand they include the "import" of the foreign results and their application among home conditions, on the other hand its task is to make the foreign librarians aware of our modest results. Both of these activities are at the same time careers of important institutions of the library policy.

For the time being there are bi-lateral contacts of cooperation between the Association of the Hungarian Librarians and its Slovakian and East German partners, and the establishment of bilateral relations are on the way with the Austrian and Yugoslavian partner associations.

In the Association's life the connection with the IFLA activities plays ab outstanding role. The ASSOCIATION of Hungarian Librarians has been IFLA member since 1956, but already as early as 1935 it took part in the work of the International Commission on Library and Bibliography. The relations are broad and manifold; their

enumeration and detailed analysis would exceed the limit of the present lecture. That is why we shall give only a brief summary about the significance of the relations with the IFLA in the life of the Association and the Hungarian library system, and in the improvement of the library policy.

Hungary joins the international programmes of outstanding significance and efficiency, such as the UNISIST, UAP, UBC, etc., first of all through IFLA. We can obtain a lot of important information from lectures of the IFLA congresses, the IFLA papers and other IFLA publications. Through this IFLA connection we could get personally acquainted with several outstanding professionals, many of whom we could invite to lecture in Hungary. Several Hungarian librarians are awarded scholarship abroad. The participation of the Association is extremely active in the work of several different IFLA related professional organizations, e.g. AIBM, IALL, IATUL, INTAMEL, etc.

International relations also play an important part in the fact, that the Association of the Hungarian Librarians can represent up-to-date, advanced viewpoints while preparing decisions and these viewpoints can always be kept in mind while formulating the library policy. The activity of the Association within the IFLA organization is highly appreciated by the Ministry as well.

IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION:

SECTION:

70/LIBAS/3E

Library Associations on the Move (Plenary meeting)

Library Association of Singapore on the Move

by
by
Wee Joo GIM,
President,
Library Association of Singapore

Introduction

The Library Association of Singapore (LAS) celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1980. A fairly young national professional organization in the world of library associations, the LAS has reached its quarter-century milestone travelling through a meandering course intertwined with changes caused by economic and political tides of events of the country.

History

The LAS traced back its history to the days when Malaysia and Singapore were not independent yet. In the 1950s, Singapore was a British colony, and Malaysia, then known as the Federation of Malaya, was a British protectorate. At that time, libraries and librarians in the two territories were far and few. Only a handful of government research libraries and a few subscription libraries existed, the latter, as Jean Waller had described, "masquerading" as public libraries. The then Raffles Library, now known as the National Library of Singapore, and the Library of the then University of Malaya in Singapore (later known as the University of Singapore which was renamed as the National University of Singapore on 1 July 1980) were the very few fortunate ones to receive government aids in engaging the services of qualified expatriate librarians who came from Australia, Great Britain, New Zealand and the U.S.A. These expatriate librarians were assisted by a very small number of local staff, none of whom had received any formal training in librarianship. This group of expatriates and local staff was full of zeal and enthusiasm to transform ideals into realities in their determination to establish and improve library services in the country. No sooner, this pioneering group was caught up with the idea that there was an urgent need for them to meet other librarians and

exchange ideas about their work. The concept for the formation of a professional organization for people engaged in library work was thus mooted and on 7 January 1955, an informal meeting to discuss the matter was convened with 47 persons in attendance. These included full-time librarians, teacher-librarians and others who were interested in the cause. The meeting led to a further series of meetings in which constitution for the proposed organization was drafted and re-drafted. Then on 25 March 1955, the drafted constitution was formally adopted by 36 members including 14 from across the Causeway. That meeting was unanimously agreed by those present at the function as the inaugural meeting with the birth of the modest national library professional organization, called the Malayan Library Group. The founding of the national Group was an important milestone in the history of librarianship for both Malaysia and Singapore. The Malayan Library Group assembled for the first time all those who were engaged or interested in library work in the two territories. The fundamental aim of the Group was to unite librarians and to serve as a meeting ground for the exchange of ideas. "The existence of the Group also testifies to the fact that there has arisen in this country a new and growing class of professional people...who are conscious of the value of library services to the community, and who are banding together for the purpose of seeking ways and means to enlarge and improve these services."[1]

Economic and political events that ensued in the 50s and 60s in Malaysia and Singapore have caused the Malayan Library Group to undergo many changes too. In 1958, the Malayan Library Group changed its name to the Library Association of Malaya and Singapore in order to indicate that the Association covered both territories - the Federation of Malaya and Singapore - since it encompassed membership from the two regions. However, this had to be dissolved in 1960 because of the Federation Government's policy not to grant registration to pan-Malayan associations. The Library Association of Malaya and Singapore was left without choice but to split into two separate library associations, viz. the Persatuan Perpustakaan Tanah Melayu (Library Association of Malaya) which was inaugurated on 16 January 1960 and the Library Association of Singapore which was inaugurated at the 9th extraordinary general meeting held in Singapore on 27 February 1960. The merger of Malaya and Singapore into Malaysia

brought the integration of the two separate library associations. In January 1964, both the Persatuan Perpustakaan Tanah Melayu and the Library Association of Singapore agreed that there should be one library association for Malaysia with the Library Association of Singapore becoming a regional branch. Thus on 16 January 1965, the Library Association of Singapore was reconstituted as the Persatuan Perpustakaan Malaysia, Chawagan Singapura (Library Association of Malaysia, Singapore Branch). However, the political marriage between Malaysia and Singapore was short-lived as Singapore separated from Malaysia and became an independent Republic on 9 August 1965. Caught in this turn of political events, the Library Association of Malaysia, Singapore Branch, once again reverted to an independent library association when it was reconstituted at the annual general meeting held on 29 January 1966 as the Persatuan Perpustakaan Singapura (Library Association of Singapore). The Malay official name was adopted in line with the Government emphasis of using Malay as the national language. On 25 March 1972, coincidentally the founder day of the Association, the Association formally adopted the Library Association of Singapore as its official registered name, which has since been known locally and abroad.

Objects

The objects of the LAS remain basically the same as those of the Malayan Library Group except that they were further expanded with the passage of time. The objects of the Association are-

"a) to unite and promote the interests of all persons engaged in library work or interested in libraries in Singapore.
b) to promote the better administration of libraries.
c) to encourage the establishment, development and use of libraries in Singapore.
d) to encourage professional education and training for librarianship.
e) to promote the enhancement of the status of librarians.
f) to encourage its members, through its programmes of publications to increase their own professional capacities and performance.

g) to publish and disseminate such information and knowledge as will be of service to members.

h) to undertake such activities, including the holding of meetings and conferences as are appropriate to the attainment of the above objects."[2]

Membership

The growth of the LAS is best reflected by the soaring membership through the decades. The initial total membership of 36 in March 1955 increased to 334 in March 1981. The increase in membership could be attributed to the fact that the LAS is the only national library professional organization for those working in libraries or for those interested in librarianship in Singapore.

Under its existing Constitution, the membership of the Association is categorised into four main groups-

i) Personal membership - for all persons with recognised library qualifications.

ii) Associate membership - for:-

a) persons engaged full-time in librarywork;

b) teacher-librarians and educationists interested in libraries and librarianship;

c) persons interested in library development and librarianship in Singapore.

iii) Honorary membership - conferred by the Council on persons who have distinguished themselves in the development of libraries and librarianship in Singapore.

iv) Institutional membership - for all libraries and other institutions which share the objects of the Association.

In December 1980, the Association awarded for the first time in its history honorary membership to three of the founder members in recognition of their contribution towards the development of libfaries and librarianship in Singapore. As at March 1981, the total membership comprised the following-

Honorary members	3
Personal members (including Life members)	163
Associate members	109
Institutional members	59

Organizational structure

The LAS has a Council which is the highest governing and executive body of the Association. This Council is elected annually by members by a secret balloting system. It comprises the following officers-

A President
Immediate Past President
A Vice-President
An Honorary Secretary
An Honorary Treasurer
Five ordinary Council members

Constitutionally, only personal members are allowed to stand for election to the Council and the four office-bearers - President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer - must be Singapore citizens. The Council is empowered to co-opt up to three other Council members if deemed necessary. Members of the Council hold office for one year and with the exception of the Honorary Treasurer, are allowed to seek for re-election.

The Council sets up committees, ad hoc committees, subcommittees as and when necessary according to the Bylaws of Committees. At the moment, the LAS has the following committees and each is charged with its terms of reference-

Programmes Committee
Publications Committee
Standing Committee on Library Education
Special Libraries Committee
Bibliographical Committee on Library Co-operation (BILCO)
BILCO's Subcommittee on Cataloguing and Classification
BILCO's Subcommittee on Microforms
BILCO's Subcommittee on Library Automation
Ad Hoc Committee on Compilation of Directory of Libraries in Singapore

Both the President and the Honorary Secretary serve on all committees as ex-officio members to act as a link between the Council and the committees as well as to guide the functions of the work of the committees.

The annual general meeting of the Association is held in March when the new Council is elected into office.

Management

Since the founding of the Malayan Library Group, the Association is depending heavily on voluntary services of members. The LAS derived its income primarily from the meagre membership subscriptions, sales of its publications and balance of course fees. From time to time, it received donations, advertisements solicited from foundations and organizations in connection with a particular function such as the hosting of a conference. Sponsorship is often sought to invite resource persons to conduct courses for members.

The income gained from membership subscriptions is marginal as the rates of membership subscription are comparatively low as compared to other professional bodies. The rates of membership subscription vary with the gross monthly salary earned by members in the catagory of Personal Members. These members pay subscriptions ranging from a minimum of S$15 to a maximum of S$55 per annum with S$500 for Life membership. Locally resident Associate members pay S$15 and overseas' Associate members pay S$40. There are three rates for Institutional members - S$50 for local libraries, S$20 for local institutions and S$80 for overseas institutions.

The Council and all committees are governed by a set of bylaws of which the Council is empowered to amend them from time to time if necessary. Normally decisions of committees are endorsed by the Council before implementation is to take place.

Programmes and activities

To compress all the programmes and activities of the LAS for a 10-minute presentation is quite a formidable task. Here, only an outline of some of the programmes and activities could be highlighted.

Like many library associations, the LAS organises programmes and activities in pursuance of its objects. More details on this can be gleaned from "Twenty-five eventful years: a chronicle of LAS activities 1955-1980".[3]

1) Library education

Library education has all along been one of the main concerns of the LAS. In fact, soon after the Malayan Library Group was founded, one of the important functions and immediate tasks of the Group was to consider some form of training in library work. The Association has organized courses for librarianship. In the early days, courses were run by the Association to help members to sit for the ALA (Great Britain) external examinations. Lecturers for those courses were drawn from members who had obtained their professional qualifications. In 1968, the Association decided to discontinue running such courses for members because: (i) the number of candidates taking the ALA examinations was much reduced; (ii) many major libraries were able to secure a number of scholarships within their own organizations to send their own staff for overseas training in librarianship and (iii) many library trainees in the 70s were willing to sacrifice and go on no-pay leave to obtain their professional qualifications at their own expense.

The Association, though seemed less pre-occupied with the responsibilities of running courses for the ALA examinations, was no less interested in the basic library education of its members. As a matter of fact, in October 1962, the then Malayan Library Group had sent a Memorandum on The Need for a Graduate Library School to the Ministry of Culture urging the Government to set up a school quickly in Singapore to solve the acute shortage of trained library personnel. Between the 60s and the mid 70s, the question of setting up a local library school in Singapore had again been widely discussed and examined. Another memorandum on this matter had also been submitted to official authorities concerned for the proposal of setting up a library school. However, circumstances of the time had finally made the Association shelve its plans. With the availability of scholarships offered by major libraries to their staff, the pressing need for a library school in Singapore diminished. The LAS has since then devoted much of its attention on continuing education programmes for members with the revival of the Standing Committee on Library Education in 1972. A series of courses had been organized and conducted annually.

With the final phasing out of the ALA (Great Britain) and the ALAA (Australia) examination facilities in Singapore in the late 70s, the problem of finding an avenue for the training of future librarians surfaced again especially when major libraries faced a cut in getting government scholarships on librarianship from official authorities. Once more, the Association's assistance was sought to look for a solution to the problem. Interest for a local in-service training course for professional library trainees was again rekindled in 1979 when the National Library approached the LAS to look into the possibility of having a local in-service part-time course. With the existing infrastructures of library system in Singapore and the pool of qualified personnel in the country, the LAS felt that it would be timely for Singapore to run its own in-service training courses to fulfill the nation's future library manpower needs in the light of the expansion of library services in Singapore. Thus the Association set up a committee to undertake the study and eventually proposals for a local in-service training course were drawn up and submitted by the Council to the National Library and the Ministry of Culture for consideration. An informal meeting between officials of the LAS, the National Library and the Ministry was also held in 1980. At the time of writing, it is known that the authorities concerned have agreed in principle to the need for a local in-service training course but have some reservations about the standards to be maintained. It is the view of the LAS that standards to be maintained could be achieved with the services of external examiners as practised commonly by the University. It is the view of the Association that recognition of a locally awarded diploma/degree in librarianship falls squarely upon the local authorities concerned, especially with the potential employing institutions. The Association is also of the view that Singapore does not lack the manpower qualified to lecture. The whole problem hinges on how well recognised these local lecturers are to be regarded by the local authorities, nothwithstanding the fact that many of these potential lecturers themselves are practising professionals with long standing of practical experience and were well-trained by outstanding library schools overseas.

2) Publications

Like any other professional organizations, the dissemination of information has also been of great concern to the LAS since its founding day. When the Malayan Library Group was formed, a newsletter, the Malayan Library Group Newsletter, was published in July 1955 and sold to members at 50 cents to recover the cost of printing and postage. With the merger and subsequent separation of the LAS and the Malaysian sister association, the Newsletter itself had undergone changes in name and format. After the LAS had been reconstituted as a full national library association, P.P.S. Newsletter was published in 1965-72. It was later renamed LAS Newsletter. With the Association a little healthier financially than in the past, the Newsletter is now distributed free to all members despite the increase in printing cost and higher postage incurred as a result of increase in membership.

Besides the quarterly Newsletter, the LAS has also embarked upon the publication of its own professional journal. Majallah Perpustakaan Singapura made its appearance in 1961-64 followed by Perpustakaan Malaysia in 1965 when the LAS became a branch of the Library Association of Malaysia. Following the separation of the two library associations in 1966, Perpustakaan was published with joint editorial work from the two organizations for 1966-69. Since 1971, the LAS has been publishing its own official annual journal, Singapore Libraries, which again is distributed free to all members.

In addition to the official regular publications, the LAS had also published for teacher-librarians Cataloguing school library collection: a handbook in 1975. A Directory of Libraries in Singapore was also published and its third revised edition is under preparation. Other publications which the Association had brought out included Who's who in Singapore Librarianship, Standard headings for government departments and statutory bodies published in 1976 and 1977 respectively, Catalogue manual for small libraries, Standards for bibliographical compilations published in 1980 and proceedings of joint conferences of the LAS and the Library Association of Malaysia.

3) Salaries and status of librarians

A much lamented state of affair of members in the Association ties up with salaries and status of librarians. The Association, notwithstanding that it is not a union and has no bargaining power to negotiate with employers, had made itself heard on several occasions regarding the low priority accorded to the profession as a whole by official bodies. In 1966, an Ad Hoc Committee on Memorandum for Government Salaries Commission was set up with the view to support the proposed salary revisions of the National Library's staff. The Association voiced its views to the Treasury on the unsatisfactory marginal improvement made with a request for a new revision to be considered when the government's decision was made known. In 1974, an Ad Hoc Committee set up by the LAS Council investigated the results and implications of the salary revisions at the then University of Singapore Library. The LAS Council wrote to the University authorities expressing the Association's concern about the adverse effects of the salary revision upon the university library staff as well as upon the library development in Singapore. In 1979, the Association again expressed its concern to the government authorities about the Professional Services Review Committee's exclusion of library services in the Committee's definition of "professional and equivalent services".

4) Copyright

In 1971, the LAS was invited by the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS) to make recommendations on revised copyright legislation. The Association submitted its recommendations to the NBDCS accordingly.

5) School libraries

The Association has been actively involved in the provision of school libraries. Courses for teacher-librarians had been conducted as early as the day when the Malayan Library Group was founded. In August 1969, the Association set up a School Library Section to serve as a forum for teacher-librarians to discuss common problems and to find solutions to improve school library service in Singapore. The Section's central committee invited a representative from the Ministry of Education to serve

on its committee with the view to co-operate closely with the Ministry on matters relating to school libraries. The Section published a handbook for secondary school libraries and compiled a number of booklists for distribution to members. In 1977 , the Ministry of Education set up its own Subject Committees for Libraries (Ministry and Schools) without representation from the LAS. In view of the Ministry's committees and the lack of response from teacher-librarian members to participate in the programmes organized by the School Library Section, the Association decided to dissolve the Section in March 1980. Members of the Section, however, could remain as Associate members of the LAS.

6) Code of Ethics

The Association drew up a code of ethics formally adopted by members at the annual general meeting held in 1977. This serves as guidelines for members to discharge their duties professionally.

7) Service to the community

The Association has rendered its services to other organizations at various times. It conducted courses such as"Organizing community libraries" for members of the People's Association and its community centres, "Introduction and management of small libraries" for staff of the Vocational and Industrial Training Board of Singapore.

8) Liaison with other organizations

The LAS establishes a cordial relationship with a number of professional organizations. The Association has maintained close co-operation with the Library Association of Malaysia even after their separation in 1966. The two Associations set up a Joint Liaison Council comprising the respective Councils of the two Associations and meet once a year at least to discuss about common problems, consider and undertake cooperative projects. Since 1967, the two associations have mutually agreed to host alternately joint meetings in the form of conferences/workshops/ seminars on themes found relevant to better library services in both countries. The joint Conference of Southeast Asian Librarians held in Singapore in August 1970 paved the way for

the establishment of the regional Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) which has been rotationally hosted in each of the Asean countries.

The Association is represented on the Board of the National Library from 1960 till 1979. It was also a member of the Planning Committee responsible for the organization of a Unesco meeting of experts on book development planning in Asia held in Singapore in September 1968. The meeting led to the eventual formation of the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS), on which the LAS has been represented since its inauguration on 13 February 1969. Annually, in support of the NBDCS, the LAS has organized a programme in conjunction with the NBDCS's festival of books.

The Association was a founder member of the Commonwealth Library Association in 1972 and has been represented on its Council and its Executive. The LAS also joined the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and was represented at IFLA meetings held in 1974, 1977 and 1980 by official delegates appointed by the LAS Council. The LAS is also a member of the International Association of School Librarianship.

9) Social activities

The Programmes Committee of the LAS organizes programmes in the form of talks by invited speakers, visits to printing school and printing firms, group tours, picnics for members with the dual purpose of education and recreation as well as with the aim to help members to meet each other more informally. The LAS had organised tours for members to visit China in 1978 and 1979.

Future directions and problems

The future of the LAS depends solely on its members' contribution and support, notwithstanding that the economic and political climate will influence the charting of its course by members. Like other organizations, the LAS faces problems, the magnitude of which is not easily grapsed by

members. One would only be able "to feel the pulses" of the Association after having worked long enough in the office of the LAS. Very often, some nitty-gritty problems in the management of an association are not noticeable when members are not involved in the work. I have, in my association with the work of the LAS for the past 10 years, identified some problems of the LAS.

1) Finance

Financial constraint is the main obstacle in the management of the LAS. As mentioned earlier on, the Association's main source of income came from membership subscriptions which are considerably low. Attempts to increase the membership dues had not been too successful. Income from sales of its publications is marginal because it is offset by the increasing printing cost.

The LAS has had fund-raising campaigns such as the holding of a film premiere, solicitation of advertisement fees in the publication of souvenir magazines, sales of souvenir items like T-shirts and key-chains. However, profits gained from the fund-raising campaigns had to be subjected to a taxation of 40% as the Inland Revenue Department does not grant tax exemption to LAS because the Association is not a "charitable organization" in the Department's list of organizations that are exempted from paying income tax.

With Singapore being more developed than some other nations and having itself almost being reclassified by the World Bank as a developed nation, some international aiding agencies are adopting the policy of cutting financial aids to Singapore and this policy has also been applied by such agencies to the LAS.

2) Secretariat

It has been noted that many well-established professional organizations operate more efficiently with secretariats of their own. The LAS is unable to own its own office. Since the beginning, the Association has been using borrowed premises for the holding of its meetings, and other functions. The files and records and publications of the LAS would tag along with the elected office-bearers wherever they are. This has resulted in the scattering

of the LAS's possession. The idea of renting an office for the LAS was found to be impractical because the rental charges would drain off the Association's limited financial resources at the time when there is no means to generate additional income to meet the extra expenditures.

It is a dream of some of the members of the Association that the Association would own its own secretariat. To achieve this, it is realised that a regular fund-raising campaign over a long period is needed. The LAS may hope to receive some initial setting grants for the establishment of a secretariat from agencies in support of the cause, but the Association must also be ensured of means to have sufficient funds to maintain the secretariat which is expected to expand as time goes by. This problem of lack of fund is a viscious cycle.

3) Library education

Library education will always receive full attention of the LAS. The Association hopes that the problem of basic library education in Singapore will be solved more satisfactorily this time in view of the proposed local in-service training course. Questions had been posed by some members of the Association if a mistake had been made in the past by shelving the plans for the establishment of a library school in Singapore.

The Association would also pay attention to the continuing education programmes for members to upgrade their knowledge and skills. Since 1977, the LAS has set up a library education fund which has been used to engage the services of resource persons in conducting short courses for members and to subsidize members' attendance at professional conferences. The Association plans to step up this programme with more subsidies to assist members. As the fund has been renamed to include provisions for research, the Assodiation also plans to subsidize library-orientated research projects deemed useful towards the development of library services in Singapore.

4) Personnel

Since the day when the Malayan Library Group was formed, the Association has depended very heavily upon voluntary services of its members in the management of the Association. The appointment of a part-time/full-time executive secretary has been considered impractical at this stage because the salary

for such a service would drain off the Association's limited financial resources considerably.

Because members holding offices in the Association are working full-time in their own libraries, it has been noted, much to the disadvantage of the Association, that they are usually not able to discharge their duties for the Association's work accordingly as the work in the LAS is considered of second importance to their own library work that constitute their "rice-bowls".

5) Advisory role

Much has been expressed by members about the low status and poor salary of professionals in library services. In this matter, the LAS, as a non-unionised body is not in the position to bargain for members' salaries. The LAS could however act as an advisory body to recommend suitable salaries for professionals in the field. It has been noted also that many libraries have made their own recommendations to their governing authorities in the creation of different grades of library staff and the corresponding salary structures. This has now resulted in Singapore a wide disparity of grades of library employees and salary scales. The LAS feels that for the sake of the whole profession in Singapore, a more unified scheme of service in librarianship is to be recommended to employing authorities. Libraries ought to work through the national library professional organization in their recommendations of the desirable terms and conditions for the professionals as a whole. In May 1981, the Standing Committee on Library Education of the Association had suggested the setting up of a committee to undertake a research project on the survey of salaries of professional librarians in Singapore with the view to publishing the results based upon comprehensive information which would be collected and collated.

As for the enhancement of the professional status, the LAS is of the view that members themselves ought to maintain high standards of professional performance to project the image of the profession. After all, the LAS is made up of members in the profession.

6) Resource sharing

The LAS would work towards the object of uniting librarians, encouraging librarians and libraries to co-operate closely.

Of late, computerisation in libraries is gradually coming into scene in some local libraries, but this seems to be planned and undertaken by the organizations in isolation. The LAS has set up a subcommittee on library automation with the view that libraries that are planning for computerisation programmes would share their resources and expertise and work towards the achievement of having a national integrated information system for the benefits of the whole country rather than for individual institutions.

Conclusion

It is the hope of the Library Association of Singapore that it would continue to grow from strength to strength and be able to participate in more regional and international activities and programmes. "New blood" has to be injected into the main stream of the LAS for the sake of continuity. The LAS looks forward to receiving the necessary support, co-operation and assistance not only from its own members but also from other professional organizations.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Library Association of Singapore, I would like to thank Mr Russell Bowden for extending the invitation to the Association. I also wish to thank the LAS Council for their support and advice given to me in preparing this paper.

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WJG

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ADVISORY LIBRARY BODIES IN THE CSSR

Important role in the system of library administration in the CSSR is fulfilled by the advisory bodies - library councils and boards. They are active by the respective ministries, which are responsible for administration and management of library networks, as the advisory bodies for problems of librarianship.[1]

The whole system of advisory bodies is headed by the Central Library Council of the Czech Socialist Republic and the Slovak Library Council. Both councils are advisory bodies of the respective Ministers of Culture.[+] The Councils are initiative professional advisory and coordinating organs for the field of librarianship, bibliography and scientific information in Bohemia and Slovakia. Their membership consists of representatives of respective departments, central authorities, regional national committees /all these bodies steer the particular library networks/, as well as the foremost professionals in librarianship, bibliography and scientific information.

The Councils control and evaluate activity of the library systems in the CSR and the SSR, consider the conceptions of development and long-range plans of activity according to the needs of society, they coordinate activity of particular networks - in cooperation with the supervising state authorities, take care of professional and ideological advancement of the library personnel, their social status and adequate remuneration. The Councils also consider any legislative regulation concerning the field of librarianship and bibliography, changes in organization of

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[+] With regard to the federative constitution of the CSSR, there are two Ministeries of Culture, each responsible for the library network in particular republic.

IFLA Council 1981

DIVISION:

SECTION:

Plenary Meeting

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Advisory Library Bodies in the CSSR

by
Dr. Helena KOLAROVÁ-PALKOVÁ, CSSR

library network of central libraries. The Councils, to a certain extent, provide for the interconnection of the library system with the system of information centers.

Activity of the Councils is based on the one-year plans. These plans are devised in agreement with the plans of main provisions of national ministries of culture for the particular year. Meetings of the Councils take place 3 - 4 times a year. At the beginning of each year a joint meeting of both councils is held alternately either in Bohemia or in Slovakia. The aim of these meetings is to provide for mutual exchange of information and concerted activity in solution of principial and conceptual problems.

Activity of the Councils is regulated by special organizational guidelines approved by the respective Minister of Culture. The guidelines define the mission of the Council, its functions and goals, as well as rights and obligations of the council members. The members are nominated and recalled by the respective Minister of Culture. The membership is honorary. Secretary of the Council is the Head of the Department of Libraries at the Ministry of Culture /in Prague and Bratislava/. The Councils are financed by the Ministries of Culture.

The Central Library Council of the CSR is the member of IFLA. The Slovak Library Council is not engaged in any international organization. This function /i.e. international relations/ was entrusted to the Union of Slovak Librarians and Information Workers.

The Councils have relatively long tradition. When founded in the fifties, their organizational structure consisted of sections, commissions /according to the types of libraries and library activity/, the Board and plenary. This scheme, as well as the system of work, however, more an association. Structure and

systems of the Councils was radically changed in the seventies. They work only in plenary and number of members was substantially lowered /the CLC CSR - 30 members; the SLC - 20 members/ and became parts of the official advisory bodies of the Ministers of Culture.

The Councils play an important role in the development of national library systems and to a considerable extent they participate in the solution of principal problems of librarianship in the CSSR.

Note 1:

On lower level of the state administration, in regions and districts, the same mission is fulfilled by the regional and district boards.

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Local and Regional Library Associations
Views beyond National Library Associations' Boundaries

by
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The tendency for librarians to group themselves into associations and/or to meet together has been amply noted and documented by others. It has been suggested that, as tribal relationships and many varieties of rituals and ceremonies are dropped in contemporary society, people develop new relationships and traditions to replace them. Annual or biennial conferences, traditional ceremonies or social events, and patterns of communication are among the characteristics that professional library associations have in common. Our attachment to them can be recognized as similar to the desire to maintain earlier traditions and ideals.

Vance Packard, prolific author-observer of American social customs, has written that, as Americans have become more mobile, they have tended to substitute new groups for the old clusters of neighborhood friends. Close friendships among library colleagues are often strengthened by the fact that people may be working in geographic isolation, but may find common bonds of similar attitudes about what is important in the profession of librarianship or about the special interests they share.

Telephone communications and frequent travel help to form friendships and professional collegiality. But the stimulus to begin such communication often starts when an individual first finds some common interests with others in a local or regional library association.

The diversity and quantity of these library associations have not been adequately documented nor appreciated. Their purposes, histories, size, and range of activities are widely varied. While it is natural that they proliferate in a country like the United States of America, where distances are great, the number of

libraries and librarians fairly high, and interest in gathering together with library colleagues generally accepted, local and regional library associations are certainly not limited to countries with all of those characteristics. In fact, geographic barriers such as mountains or waterways, and social isolation because of language or major cultural differences within a nation may stimulate the need for local and regional library associations. In instances where there are such barriers, the contributions of these associations may be even more significant.

An American like me may feel somewhat wistful in reading the International Guide to Library, Archival, and Information Science Associations[1] and seeing that some national library associations report fewer than 100 members, and may meet, as a whole group, once a year or even more often. And yet, history suggests that associations are likely to increase in size and also to proliferate in numbers and kinds of associations. Why?

Two needs cause us to draw together with others of our profession and to form permanent organizations. In some respects, these needs contradict each other. We wish to associate with others who share our profession, our concerns about library development, but we want to do it on a broad enough scale that we will meet, through the association, others whose views and backgrounds differ from ours. It is this constant mix of the desires to be with people like ourselves and with people different from ourselves that causes the development and the maintenance of diverse library and information science organizations.

When we gather at an international conference like this one, we look across our national borders and we think we get a view of the national associations of other countries. Such views are generally superficial and impressionistic. We tend to know even less about the smaller associations within those other countries. And yet those associations, located in various parts of the country, have their effect on the national associations, and, perhaps even more significant, on librarianship and library development in their respective

countries. For that reason alone, they deserve some attention as we discuss, during this conference, the role of library associations in relation to library development.

The patterns of organization of these local and regional groups are somewhat varied. In some instances, national associations have stimulated the development of chapters to provide a focus for members' interests and an opportunity for more frequent meetings for members in the same geographic area. The Special Libraries Assocation, with chapters throughout the United State and Canada, is an example of thes kind of organization. Members of chapters must be members of the national association, and, through their chapters, they are represented in the governance of the association.

A somewhat different relationship exists between the American Library Association and its chapters. States and territories of the U.S. have library associations which are chapters, but members may belong to chapters without belonging to the American Library Association, or to ALA without belonging to chapters. Chapters are represented on the ALA Council, the policy-making body of the association. At the present time, largely because of continued concern on the part of chapters, there are efforts to improve the communications and many aspects of the relationship between the chapters and the national association.

If we think only of library associations made up of individual librarians who select themselves for membership by paying dues, for example, we are omitting some groups of librarians which are growing at very fast rates at the present time. There are consortiums, sometimes designated by other terms, in which libraries as institutions are the members, and where the individuals who gather together are often the heads of those libraries who are discussing common concerns or proposed cooperative activities. Somewhat similar are the users groups, in which libraries which contract for services from the same vendor, such as cooperative cataloging or processing or circulation control systems, gather together to meet with the vendor to discuss mutual concerns. Often, these user

groups have an advisory relationship to the vendor, perhaps recommending practices for improvement of the product or advising limits on the growth of the service so that quality is maintained.

Almost at the other end of the spectrum are the more social groups of librarians. While many of these are fairly informally organized and while their histories suggest that they increase and diminish in strength depending on many factors, they perform some functions that make them comparable to larger, more professionally-oriented organizations. In my own city of Chicago, the Chicago Library Club has survived for ninety years, meeting several times during the year at evening dinner meetings, attracting a membership which includes some who are very loyal with their payments of modest dues and fairly regular attendance, while others join for short periods of time, participate occasionally or not at all, or attend only meetings of some major significance, such as a recent meeting where the newly-appointed state librarian and secretary of state for Illinois came to speak to the club.

Two comments will give you an idea of the strength of a club like this one. When I first came to Chicago eighteen years ago, a colleague on the staff of the American Library Association suggested that I might like to go to one of the Chicago Library Club meetings. When I asked why, he said, "Well, it's a good way to try out some of the downtown restuarants, and you will meet some of the local librarians." I am not sure he intended to give more importance to the restaurants than to the librarians by mentioning them first, but both reasons offered some attractions for me as a newcomer to the city, so I accepted and have been fairly active in the club ever since. There is, of course, some question about what being active means because a club of this kind has little program beyond its meetings. In fact, several years ago, when I met with the board of the Chicago Library Club to ask their help in some of the plans for an ALA

conference to be held in Chicago, I was a little disappointed at their lack of interest. A friend who was serving on the board said, "You shouldn't be surprised. You asked the Club to do something, and one of our characteristics is that we never do anything!"

It would be disloyal for me to talk in Leipzig about a club from which I have received many benefits and to disparage it for being what it is. Indeed, my intention in preparing this talk is to call attention to the need for diversity of purpose and membership among various library organizations. What we learn about librarianship from meeting with other librarians is an important part of our professional growth, but there are more practical, more immediate benefits also. In a time when we are increasingly aware of the need for shared information and cooperation, knowledge about who people are in other libraries in our general geographic area can be quite useful. Telephone and written communications are ~~useful~~ helpful, but most of us prefer being able to picture the face of the person whom we may wish to interest in some project or cooperative effort. There are practical concerns in terms of placement or recruitment of librarians which local and regional associations often serve, too. These are not always just for the benefit of the individual seeking a position. I first joined the Special Libraries ~~Organization~~ Association. and began to attend Illinois Chapter meetings when I was dean of students at the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. I knew that many special libraries had part-time positions ideal for students and that they often recruited their professional staff from those part-time employees. I also knew that such positions were often filled informally and quickly. I realized I could help students find such jobs if my own acquaintance among special librarians in my locality were increased, so I made it my business to get acquainted through joining the association. I succeeded in what I set out to do, but, as often happens, I received many other benefits.

When one enterprising president of the Illinois Chapter of SLA decided to try to find out why some libraries were started by businesses such as banks or national organizations and why they sometimes died within a fairly short period of time, he appointed a committee of SLA members to investigate. I was one of the committee members. We discussed the problem in general, and then we drafted questions which we used in interviews and in written questionnaires to librarians and others who had been associated with the new endeavors. Surveying both the successful and the unsuccessful libraries, we were able to identify characteristics of the unsuccessful ones that gave clues to the reasons why they were not maintained.

This research project was eventually reported at a national SLA conference and in Special Libraries. Its value to me, however, was in the knowledge and appreciation for special libraries and my colleagues who work in them, which I gained from serving on the committee. We met late in the afternoons for a period of several months, once a month. Meeting in each others' libraries, we treated ourselves to cookies and soft drinks and once, at The Chicago Public Library, we were adventurous enough to have beer, , cooled on the office window-sill. The contrast of that committee with one on which I served at the same time is strong. The other committee also consisted of several library colleagues, each one better informed about research techniques than the members of our SLA committee, but we were selected to prepare for a major study of public libraries to be done by the U.S. government. We flew to Washington about once a month over about the same period of time, but our results were of much less significance, and the camaraderie of our local Chicago group was significantly missing. This is not to suggest that it is not helpful to have financial support for major projects. My point is that there is probably more to be achieved by allying ourselves together on specific projects or inquiries than we sometimes realize. The information achieved in this way is far more than what is contained in the final report, and the benefits, although not easy to measure,

should be visible in the professional growth of those who work together in such efforts.

Research, publication, participation in meetings are important in the professionalization of librarians. Local and regional associations provide good means for them to have these experiences. People frequently note that local and regional groups provide access for many who wish to be more active in national organizations. This is true, just as national organizations are often a stepping-stone to activities at the international level. One problem I see, however, is that if we become too stratified, with all younger members of the profession participating locally, and only the most senior representing us at international conferences, we lose some of the values of organizations, and we miss some of the experience of professionalization. An ideal personal arrangement would be to shift into and out of activities in library organizations at various levels. For the individual person, the mix most of us seek is an opportunity to learn by doing something new while at the same time having the experience of using our knowledge and experience to move some professional effort forward. Participation in several organizations can provide that mingling of experiences.

I have observed that local and regional groups of librarians sometimes use their geographic locations as barriers rather than as unifying elements. I see no reason why membership in such groups should be limited to those who live and work in the same geographic area. In fact, it may be the even more isolated librarians who would benefit most from being a part of a group that is located within easier reach than a national organization. Another advantage of groups like this is that they may facilitate activity in an organization for library employees who are not themselves librarians. Membership can range from representatives of public library boards who have the responsibility for administering the public library to administrators of other municipal or educational units who have some responsibility for libraries. Perhaps even more interesting is the opportunity for library staff members who are library

clerks, or who work as library technicians or in other nonprofessional categories, to associate themselves with others who are interested in libraries but who work in other libraries. In the Illinois Library Association, my own state's organization, there is a newly-formed round table group for library assistants. There is the obvious value that many such employees eventually become librarians and use their experience as library workers and as participants in library associations to become better librarians. But even for those who are career nonprofessionals in libraries, there are personal benefits in being recognized as parts of the library enterprise. The associations and librarianship benefit when these members use their political expertise, their knowledge of communities, and their own channels of communication to support the needs of libraries in many different ways.

A recent experience in Illinois, again, has made me aware of the strength of support from all levels of library staff in the political scene. A state law was being drafted which would make librarians legally responsible for giving harmful materials to minors. The law was defeated through concerted efforts of many citizens and library staff members throughout the state. At about that time, I received a letter from a disgruntled member of the American Library Association, saying that she questioned the value of ALA membership. She was from another state, but she enclosed a clipping from a newspaper referring to the Illinois legislative action, and she asked why ALA was not doing something about it. It made me realize that many of the leaders in the effort to fight the legislation in Illinois had received support in many ways and over a period of many years from our national association. Workshops on how to lobby by seeking support from legislators, introductions to the excellent public relations efforts of other libraries and library associations, background information on intellectual freedom issues throughout the state and the nation -- all of these had been available to those who had been active in ALA, and they were in the forefront of this particular effort. And that is not all. The networks

of communication among libraries and librarians had been built up over the years through many kinds of formal and informal efforts. Because of activity in the Illinois Library Association, people knew where to look for leadership and action.

Not all of our efforts are successful, of course. Nor are the links between various library organizations and their mutual concerns always clear. It is possible, for example, to spend several hours at some local or regional library organization meetings listening to accounts of how unhelpful the American Library Association is. I would guess this experience, like others I have mentioned, is not unique to the United States. Even when this occurs, the smaller library associations are serving useful purposes as channels of discontent, often making some positive response possible.

It is the intersection and common interests of national and state or local library associations that are interesting. It should be possible to have separate, strong local and regional groups which can, on occasion, go to national organizations for support or advice and which can, on other occasions, provide the lines of communication or the information on local or regional issues that may be useful to the national association. There is no reason for these groups to be modeled on the national organizations in every detail. When I see, in the U.S., a state organization that has every -- or almost every -- committee and section and round table and division that ALA has, I have the feeling that it is an organization that has not yet found its identity and real purpose. On the other hand, if these organizations are to be as effective as they can be, they should build on the strengths of national organizations to the extent those can assist them.

There may be a special need for some of us who are interested in the international aspects of librarianship to relay those interests to the smaller organizations within our country as well as to the national groups. There may even be more of a role for IFLA in regard to these groups than has yet developed.

In August, 1980, when two American colleagues and I traveled on our own vacation time and at our own expense to other parts of the Philippines after the IFLA meeting in Manila, we had the opportunity to meet with librarians in Cagayan de Oro, and I saw that some of the benefits of the many international visitors to Manila at that time might have been extended if others had been encouraged to meet with other groups of librarians in that country where enthusiastic librarians with natural ties to many parts of the world seem to be in especially strong supply. I promised myself that, when I had opportunity, I would encourage international visitors to my own country to attend and perhaps to participate in meetings of local and state organizations when their schedules permitted. Some benefits are obvious: the size and complexity of the organizations may be less than that of the national organization; there may be more real opportunity for exchange of information and ideas on a person-to-person basis, and international visitors may be more unusual, therefore more welcome. The major point, however, is that it is often difficult to persuade the members of library organizations of the values of international affiliations. If some evidence of the similarities and differences among libraries in other countries were better known to members of organizations in addition to the national library associations, there might be better support for the idea of international relations among libraries and library associations. That seems to me to be an idea worth pursuing in ways perhaps as diverse as our countries and our organizations.

[1] Fang, Josephine Riss, and Alice H. Songe. International Guide to Library, Archival, and Information Science Associations. New York, Bowker, 1976.

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Meeting no. 216.
LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS ON THE MOVE

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THE CHARACTERISTICS OF NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS IN THE LIBRARY/INFORMATION FIELDS

by

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The Characteristics of National Professional Associations in the Library/Information Fields

Today librarians, archivists and information scientists have become increasingly active in communicating and cooperating on a national and international level. In the past decade there were three surveys conducted by my co-author Alice Songe and myself of international and national associations in these fields and the results give evidence that professionals from all countries are attempting to cope with the ever-growing volume of information while satisfying the increasing demands for user services on one hand and supplying basic needs in developing countries on the other hand.

The first of these three surveys mentioned was published in 1973 by the American Library Association as a preliminary study and was designed as a contribution to the International Book Year. This first survey covered a total of 319 associations, 33 international and 286 national and was the first of its kind ever to be conducted. It was entitled Handbook of National and International Library Associations. (Fang/Songe, 1973).

In 1976 and 1980 the results of the other two surveys were published by R.R. Bowker Company as the first and second editions of the International Guide to Library, Archival and Information Science Associations (Fang/Songe, 1976 and 1980). In my presentation I shall highlight some of the data provided by the last two surveys, as the response from the associations was greater than that of the 1973 study, and also because of the fact that a considerable number of new organizations have come into existence since that time.

As readers of the IFLA Journal will recall, two articles have been published on some of the data produced by the 1976 survey. The first article dealt with the major interests of the national associations, and appeared in the No. 4, 1976 issue of IFLA Journal (Fang/Songe, IFLA Journal, 1976); while the second was on the major characteristics of international associations and was published in the No. 1, 1978 issue of the Journal (Fang/Songe, IFLA Journal, 1978).

The data from these surveys covered all areas thought essential in order to identify and characterize these associations, such as, their goals and objectives; membership; types of activities-past, present, and projected; and their publications. Time does not permit a detailed presentation of the results of the 1980 survey, but I believe you would find interesting some facts that this latest survey has revealed concerning the growth areas of the associations under study.

To begin: a total of 501 associations were listed in the 1980 survey, as compared to 361 in the 1976 one - a jump of 140 associations, with the biggest gain in national groups. In 1976 there were 317 national associations responding in the survey, while a total of 450 such groups were listed in 1980, making a total of 133 national associations not previously listed. International Associations showed only a gain of 15 in number, going from 44 in 1976 to 59 in 1980.

Memberships in library, archival and information science associations at the national level also greatly increased by over 56,000 members from 1976 to 1980. There was a total of 285,000 plus individuals and institutions belonging to national groups in 1976, and this total climbed to 351,228 plus members in 1980.

For the same period, however, memberships in international associations declined, going from some 25,000 in 1976 to some 24,612 in 1980. It may be that the accelerated cost of travel has caused a decline in member participation in international groups. IFLA was not one of the international associations feeling the effects of this decline. In 1980 there were 172 organizations affiliated with IFLA, compared to 132 in 1976.

Other growth areas observed in the 1980 survey were the increased number of associations involved with library legislation, and exchange of publications. Also, a greater number of organizations received government aid or grants. It is encouraging to see the larger number of associations concerned with promoting and implementing library legislation. In 1976 only 56 associations reported being concerned with this important type of activity. In the 1980 survey, 157 groups reported library legislation as one of their activities.

After reviewing what might be called the "physical growth" of international and national associations over a four-year period, let us now turn to the increase in the subject fields with which the associations are concerned. Four subject areas are outstanding in this respect; namely archives and archivists, documentation and information science, staff and personnel, and language or ethnic groups. I should like to briefly comment on each of these areas, as I believe they reflect, more than anything else, the increasing demands for information.

In 1980, there were 69 associations concerned with archives and archivists, as compared to 34 in 1976. However, I must point out

here that this increase of 35 archives' and archivists' associations does not necessarily mean that they were founded in the four-year period, 1976-80. It does mean that there was a greater response to our requests for information from these groups. Two of the Archives Associations established in this time period were branches of the International Council of Archives. SWARBICA, the South and West Asian Regional Branch was founded late in 1976, now with headquarters in New Deli. The second branch, WARBICA, the West African Regional Branch of ICA was created in 1972, with headquarters temporarily in Dakar, Senegal.

The second subject area with the largest increase in associations was that of documentation and information science. There were 34 associations concerned with this field in 1976, but in 1980, 61 associations were occupied with documentation and information science. Among the new groups founded since 1976 were two international ones: The International Association of Schools of Information Science and the Agricultural Information Society for Asia. Three African countries, Benin, Mauritania and Nigeria have national associations that now include documentalists along with librarians and archivists. A more sophisticated type of information science associations is the American group of Associated Information Managers (AIM), founded in 1978 in the nation's capitol, Washington, D.C., and an affiliated body of the Information Industry Association.

For the third and fourth subject areas showing an increase of associations, the expansion was not as great as the first two categories, but each did double in size. Associations concerned with

staff and personnel rose from 12 in 1976 to 27 in 1980, but here again I must say that the increase for staff and personnel groups results from a greater response to our questionnaires, rather than the creation of new associations. The oldest group in this category concerned with staff and personnel is the British Association of Assistant Librarians established in 1985. One of the most recently founded associations, and one that reflects the terminology of our times is COLT, the Council on Library/Media Technical Assistants, whose new constitution and by-laws were adopted in December 1976.

Language and ethnic groups associations, the last subject category, rose from 10 in 1976 to 23 in 1980, of these, 8 associations belong to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and are related to such national ethnic groups as Serbians, Croations, Slovenians and others. The next largest group, 5 associations, are to be found in the United States and center on Chinese, Jewish, Polish, Spanish and Ukrainian librarians.

Other "growth areas" that indicate expansion for the assocations are to be found within the organizations themselves, particularly in the United States. This is evident in the increase in the divisions within larger associations, and rising operating costs, due to inflation. In his report to the Annual Conference, the Executive Director of the American Library Association, Robert Wedgeworth, underlines this "most dramatic growth...in divisional programming activities," (Wedgeworth, 1981) and that "66 percent of the members belong to at least one division." Wedgeworth describes the difficulties for an association to provide "a structure that works" satisfying both specialized needs of members through strong divisions

and yet preserving the strong unity needed to represent the profession effectively.

For example, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association, reported for 1972 a membership of 11, 313 members, 2 Chapters and 5 Divisions. Its budget for fiscal 1971/72 was given as $37,962 (which did not include staff salaries and benefits). In 1979 ACRL's membership had dropped to 9,000 members, but had expanded into 22 Chapters and 13 Sections, each with a complete roster of officers. The operation budget for ACRL for fiscal 1979/80 was reported at $900,000.00, an increase of over $800,000.00 for the seven-year period.

As to publications programs of these associations, there was a marked increase in the number of journals and newletters published, from 256 in 1976 to 301 in 1980.

Besides providing data on the growth of library, archival and information science groups, the 1980 survey furnished interesting insights on what these organizations had "targeted" as future fields of operations.

In the 1980 survey, the questionnaires sent out requested information on "projected activities". The idea was an attempt to get some perspective on what was being planned as worthwhile objectives. These "projected activities" were to be those other than the general goals and aims of the associations, as defined in their charters and constitutions.

A total of 171 associations reported planned future activities, many citing more than one objective to be accomplished. Although

these 171 organizations are a small sample of the 509 associations listed in the 1980 survey, the results are enough to provide interesting insights as to the priorities given to the associations' activities and may indicate trends that other groups may wish to follow.

The defined future activities of the 171 associations fall into seven major categories. They are listed here in order of their stated importance: (1) Development planning;

(2) Training of personnel at all levels;

(3) Increase or improvement of publications programs;

(4) Improving the structure of the organization;

(5) Increasing cooperation and coordination with other bodies;

(6) Improving the status of personnel and raising standards for library collections;

(7) Seeking federal and/or state aid and support for the profession and library related institutions

Time does not permit a detailed analysis of these activities, considered of prime importance by such a large group of associations. It is hoped, that my co-author and I can present this and other interesting findings from our surveys of associations concerned with libraries, archives, and information services in more detail at a future date.

In conclusion one can say that the activities of the national associations reflect an increasing awareness of members' needs for professional information exchange, professional development, and public recognition of the profession within the framework of the culture and civilization of a nation as well as of the world community.

Associations are struggling to continue and improve their services to members despite increasing financial pressures. Topics of publications and themes of conferences, for instance, are sensitive to current issues and members' needs. For example, the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in 1982 will concern itself with public awareness and public responsibility.

Today, as never before, Associations play a vital role as strong speakers to alert the profession to its responsibilities and challenges, and to enlighten the public sector accordingly. The stakes go far beyond any narrow goals: To cite Robert Wedgeworth again: "The struggle to maintain a cultural perspective in a world dominated by high technology will intensify as economic pressures build." D.J. Foskett expresses a similar concern in a recent editorial in the British Library Associatin Record (Foskett, 1981): "Libraries have a particular duty in developing countries in providing...scientific and technical information services that can contribute to their national progress; they also have the duty to preserve the national cultural heritage in the face of new technology which can all too easily become a disruptive and destroying force..."

The record of associations is indeed a proud one and continued success is only assured by the active participation of members and dedication of staff. Our associations thus will help achieve, in D.J. Foskett's words: "to bring many voices together to make one world."

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Plenary Session

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NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION REGARDING LIBRARIES IN LATIN AMERICA

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Abstract

The paper attempts to identifity and evaluate the possible relationship between the existence of professional library organizations and the development of library services in Latin America. Considering the small contribution of the professional library organizations in the region, it shows how some national and international centralized institutions have assumed a very important role in thes matter, supporting library services development and improvement in spite of the fact that this is not its main and only objective. For this purpose, it introduces the Book Bank in Venezuela and the Regional Centre for the Promotion of Books in Latin America and the Caribbean –CERLAL–.
It emphasizes the need to strengthen profesional associations in Latin America so that they may perform their role in close cooperation with centralized services at national and regional levels.

OUTLINE

1. Role of the library associations regarding the development of library and information services in Latin America.
2. Centralized national institutions supporting libraries: the case of the Book in Venezuela.
3. Contribution of centralized international institutions to the library development: The Regional Centre for the Promotion of Books in Latin America and the Caribbean.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION REGARDING LIBRARIES IN LATIN AMERICA

1. ROLE OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN LATIN AMERICA

Following the 45th General Conference and Council meeting of IFLA, held in 1979, the Section for Regional Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean started an intensive diffusion of the Federation itself, its aims and its programmes. Immediately, there arose one question from the visited countries and those whom we had written to: How could IFLA contribute to the improvement of professional associations in the region, to the evaluation of their aims, programmes and achievements? How could IFLA work together with these associations to allow them a greater participation in the development of information and library services and programmes?

This problem has been discussed on various occasions during the IFLA General Conference. In 1980, our colleague, Russell Bowden, presented to the 47th General Conference and extremely objective and thorough report in the numerous problems faced by the professional associations, and the way in which IFLA could help solve them. This documents has been widely circulated in Latin America and has found a great deal of support among the associations. These would like to see IFLA chair a General Meeting to examine the present situation and suggest long and short term solutions to the problems at hand. (This meeting should be preceded by a preliminary study of said problems to provide the conference with a basis document).

This is considered an essential ingredient for a better integration of Latin America and IFLA, thereby procuring a stronger participation of the Federation in the development of librarianship and library services in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Due to the limitations evident in most Latin American professional associations, many other library and information organizations have emerged over the last five years which claim to provide national coverage and have the same goals as the aforementioned but weak associations. These new associations have tried to incorporate as many professionals and institutions as possible. Naturally, the results have been quite the opposite due to the fact that of the associations identified by IFLA's Section of Regional Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean, there exist around three in each country, each one claiming to have the highest number of affiliates. Nevertheless, it can be said that 90o/o of these associations comprise under 35o/o of the potencial affiliates. The Appendix No. 1 gives and idea of the number and type of associations presently existing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A negative answer was obtained when consulting about the commitment of the professional associations of the sector towards the development of the respective programmes for coordinating institutions of National Communications Systems in each country, for those organizations responsible for the national programmes regarding various libraries as well as for the public and private organizations linked in one way or another to the development of the book, reading, libraries and information. There is no cooperating relationship whatsoever and on the contrary, these associations have sometimes showed themselves to be calamitous instruments as regards the development of the respective programmes. There have been some exceptions, although very few, when the associations have joined forces to take care of tasks generally related to inventories and directories; these tasks were completed in the first stages, but lacked the necessary long term continuity. Needless to say, none of these professional organizations offer either centralized services as regards cataloguing and classification among others or meaningful assistance programmes. These centralized services are generally offered the national programmes created for different types of libraries, and are usually located in government institutionsm as in the case of the Regional Catalographic Center for Central America in the University of Costa Rica, and the different national catalographic centers established (or in the process of being established) in Co-

lombia, Venezuela, Perú, Brazil, Nicaragua and México, which serve universities as well as public and school libraries.

We have a similar situation due to the lack of permanent information media such as bulletins, magazines, etc. In this respect, only the* of the aforementioned associations periodically issue some sort of information material which in most cases is too limited, has poor contents and is presented badly. * 50%

Due to inexistent infraestructure, the associations have not been able to respond to the anticipated objectives regarding investigations, even though both the associations and the professionals agree upon the fact that this is a field to be given priority. For this reason, library investigation centres have been created to be annexed to the library departaments of universities. Most of these centers suffer from serious economic and infrastructural difficulties, which deprive them of having a group of professionals dedicated exclusively to research, and forces them, on the other hand, to rely upon the department teachers. In some cases, these professionals are so overloaded withe academic tasks, that they cannot do research for a directly get in touch with the national programmes developed in the different libraries and communication areas in their respective countries or in the Region. It is likely that the greatest results have been obtained by the professional associations in Latin America in the field related to professional activity regulation and to the corresponding book laws.

Nevertheless, professional activity in legislation has displayed a characteristic that clearly shows its operative difficulties: in most cases, the respective laws promoted by the associations have taken 10 to 20 years before being approved by the national governments. Furthermore, when speaking to the authors of different bills, one learns that the original texts were submitted to countless modifications that very often did not correspond to the aims. It is worthwhile mentioning that the analysis of the associations operating throughout the Region shows that professional organizations of the Caribbean present better conditions for a more effective achievement of their objective and at the same time a greater integration and participation in professional and library planning and development than the regional associations.

It could be thought that due to the coungless number of associations there is great interest among professionals to meet in order to get involved in common programs. For that reason it may be possible to meet in a general assembly to study short and long-term solutions while favouring the reinforcement of the existing associations so that they may become more active in the development of the profession and library and information services.

The concept of international cooperation has been fully accepted by the Latin American librarians and all information professionals as well as the need to establish interactions betweens these professional organizations and institutions with centralized programmes of national or regional coverage.

There are many organizations and programmes of this kind operationg in Latin America and the Caribbean which would be willing to accept the cooperation proposals of professional associations that prove to have a good working capacibility and soundness. We present below as an example, the case of the Banco del Libro en Venezuela as a national service centre and the Regional Centre for Book Promotion in Latin America and the Caribbean –CERLAL– in order to give two examples of regional organizations whose programmes can give numberless possibilities for interaction with the associations:

2. *CENTRALIZED NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTING LIBRARIES: THE CASE OF THE "BANCO DEL LIBRO" OF VENEZUELA*

The Banco del Libro is a private non profit institution of cultural, educational and scientific character involved in all aspects of universal thought. It is located in Caracas and is authorized to establish sections or branches anywhere in Venezuela or in any other Latin American country. Decisions to this effect are made by its members at the General Assembly.

The objective of the Banco del Libro is "to encourage educational innovations in those areas related to the process of reading, educational materials and library services to contribute to the formation of a skilled and critical man, able to participate creatively in national development. To fulfill this goal it will perform the following functions" (1):

1. To engender awareness among every sector of the community, especially those having power of decision, as to the importance of reading as an essential ingredient in permanent human formation and development.
2. To make effective the policy of the country related to the promotion and development of reading.
3. To effect surveys and investigations tending to a better knowledge of the process of reading.
4. To elaborate good quality educational materials, printed and audio-visual, which comply with the needs of Venezuela and which will be, if possible, appropriate for other Latin American countries.
5. To promote constant and creative use of the available educational materials and through them, the education of library and school personnel which will in turn result in benefits for the users.
6. To conduct pilot experiments aimed at developing improving national library systems.
7. To give technical assistance to public/private, national/international institutions by means of service agreements.
8. To widen and maintain the exchange of information regarding techniques, materials and services with national/international, public/private organizations having close - linked goals.

The Banco del Libro was founded in Venezuela in 1960 to favour a dynamic and didactic change in a country where education has traditionally leaned on two columns:

School programme: these being the only way of achieving educational goals and the teacher entrusted to transmit and inculcate the so-called principal subjects for which they lack in most cases. The student, passive abettor, learns by heart and finds himself deprived of the possibility of freely starting to search his own fulfilment.

By the end of 1950, obtaining a text book in Venezuela became a very difficult task. This moved a group of mothers, all having professional degrees, to think about creating a Banco del Libro. With this in mind they started a series of experimental activities by establishing small reading parlors where they exchanged used text books. Donations were requested and texbooks were lent to the underprivileged students in Caracas during term time. They studied text-book use and reading promotional surveys which had previously been carried out in U.S.A., Canada, England, Denmark, Sweden and other countries. They also conducted and elaborate a text-book survey in Venezuela. It is worthwhile mentioning that the Banco del Libro conceived its own projects based on purely Venezuelan realities and amended them in a progressive way in accordance with the social changes in the country, and experience gained from the outcome of several investigations carried out in foreign countries. In 1964, this organization succeeded in diagnosing conditions in which the text book was utilized. They discovered difficulties encountered by teachers and pupils to procure and properly use them and the inexistence

(1) From the statutes aproved in the extraordinary meeting held in March 1973.

in the local schools and communities of adequate library service for children and young people.
Bearing this in mind, the Banco del Libro judged that it was essential to direct its work so as to contribute to the establishment of a national system of public and school libraries as being the fastest and most effective way to obtain greater diffusion and exploitation of educational materials to create and maintain the reading habit.
The Banco del Libro is a special institution in many ways:
– First, it has among its most immediate collaborators, professionals from many areas of the trade vinculated to the educational process and social development. At the same time, it has succeeded in keeping politically impartial and obaining support from different governments and diverse political parties.
It constantly conducts technical evaluation, selection and processing material for those libraries included in the experimental programme, thus contributing to standardization.
– It offers technical assistance and permanent training programmes for the personnel working in these libraries as well as to the advisers that, in turn, will be in charge of training the assistants of the library programmes and who act as multiplying agents.
– It investigates and verifies in practice new elements and modifications to the reading library services developed since the Banco del Libro was founded.
– With its experience and technical cooperation, the Banco del Libro has helped the Instituto Autónomo Biblioteca Nacional y de Servicios de Bibliotecas –IABN– in the development of its library programmes.
– The results obtained by the Banco del Libro from its investigations and experiments have been adopted by IABN. This is a government organization which has been in charge of library development since 1977.

According to the opinion of Ms Virginia Betancourt, principal promotor and long-time director of the Banco del Libro (and currently president of the Directive Council and director of IABN), the Bank has succeeded in gaining recognition of library services as efficient instruments in an individual's upbringing, and in giving the book and reading the importance they really have.
From 1964 onwards, the Banco del Libro extended its activities directing them towards seven areas. New strategies were employed in production, permanent investigation, experimentation, demonstration and standartization. These areas cover:

2. 1. Text books
2. 2. Experimental Programme of School Library Services in Ciudad Guayana
2. 3. Experimental Programme of Public Library Service in Caracas
2. 4. Training
2. 5. Research
2. 6. Editions for children, and development of educational material
2. 7. Reading development activities.

2. 1. Text Books
- Exchange of used school books
- Publication of texts for the teaching of reading
- Symposium held in 1964 on the Text Book, which gave origin to the Cámara Venezolana de Editores.
- Issue of elementary school text books catalogues
- Establishment of the Biblioteca Pedagógica "Daniel Navea", relating to with a collection of national and foreign text books.
- Preparation of evaluation guidelines for text books, as well as for recreational and complementary reading books for children and young people.
- Evaluation of the educational items offered in Venezuela and production by its own publishing firm, "EKARE", of original materials suited to the characteristics and needs of the country.

2.2. School Libraries

Caracas

In 1962 the Banco del Libro organized and started the operation of nine school libraries in different elementary public schools located in Caracas. This programme has obtained the active cooperation of private enterprises. From then on it has increased its activities in this field.

Ciudad Guyana

In 1965, the Banco del Libro the Corporación Venezolana de Guyana with a project to establish didactic resource centres to take care of the six existing libraries in the zone, which included equipment and training of personnel responsible for their organization and management, with special emphasis on the experimentation of services and the utilization of special materials such as didactic toys and reading matter. This projects, which still includes the Ministerio de Educación Nacional, the Corporación Venezolana de Guayana and the Banco del Libro, has become one of the pilot experiments of Latin America in the field of school libraries and covers 25 schools. It is one of the professional methodological centres that has outlined, among other plans of special interest, programmes for the integration of public and school libraries services, library orientation and training for the assistant personnel of school libraries, and holiday seasons for school children, all of which function around reading, libraries, books and the knowledge of national reality, and are aimed at proposing the establishment in Venezuela of a national system of school libraries and the inclusion of School Librarianship in university programmes.

Ciudad Guyana's programme has a central school library (apprenticeship centre), circulating libraries, bibliobuses and travelling boxes, school-class libraries, and a professional library specialized in education and pedagogy. This way, the services are evaluated through different means in order to determine the most appropriate ones for the Venezuelan schools and communities, plus those to be recommended to other Latin American countries.

This programme also has one centre for the demonstration, publication and distribution of educational materials and, besides, executes centralized technical tasks fot the whole project and workshops to produce materials where the teachers of the region are trained in the preparation of non bibliographic materials to back their educational tasks.

2.3. Public library services experimental programme in Caracas

The Banco del Libro is developing in Caracas a public libraries experimental network which was originated in 1961 and 1963 with the creation of four reading parlors in different Caracas quarters. Three of them were located in underpriviliged population zones and were oriented towards adolescents.

The programme had backing from the private sector, the community, the official sector and the Banco del Libro.

For the development of the programme there is a central public library which is the network nucleus as well as other libraries located in underprivileged city areas and an active bibliobus service. The "Mariano Picon Salas" library is a network core centralizing administrative functions, concentrating audiovisual equipment and coordinating interlibrary lending.

The programme is also coordinated through the public libraries system in the metropolitan area which depends on the Instituto Autónomo Biblioteca Nacional y de Servicios de Bibliotecas –IABN–. The experiments of the Banco del Libro which prove to be positive, are transfered to the metropolitan system in the regular activities programme after having been evaluated by the IABN.

For this programme the Banco del Libro has specially tested the CERAP model (CERAP is the Resources Experimental Centres for Permanent Learning) which is perhaps on of the most important examples of public and school library integration services. Thanks to this programme, the Banco del Libro is elaborating and testing a learning services model based in the broadening of the field of action as well as of public libraries functions and endowment to convert them into permanent educational services adapted to the needs and characteristics of the social surrounding. In its organizational and administrative basis, the CERAP model is made up of a resources and activities ensemble in the recreational, information, school studies backing and self-educated study backing areas.

2.4. Library training

For different reasons, most of the personnel responsible for the organization and functioning of school and public libraries, lack professional library training, making this one of the most urgent needs. To cope with this deficiency, the Banco del Libro has at its disposal a training department whose goal has been defined as follows: "To continuously library personnel required by the Banco del Libro to organize, develop and widen its library services and to develop a training model to be used by those institutions wishing to adopt the Banco del Libro version". (1).

In addition to the practical seminars, offered, it has produced versatile printed and audio-visual material that benefits "in situ" training adaptable to the specific needs of the personnel.

2.5. Studies and research

Studies of different kinds are being undertaken in relation to reading habit creation and the influence of public and school libraries in promoting and maintaining this habit. At present, in Venezuela, the Banco del Libro is adapting a Reading Habit, Interest and Capability Research program. This was designed and is being promoted by the Regional Centre for the Promotion of Books in Latin America and the Caribbean –CERLAL– for all countries the region. It is also undertaking important studies orientated towards the establishment and evaluation of public and school library systems in Venezuela.

2.6. Children's publishing and Educational Material Development

The work performed by the Banco del Libro in this field is worth special recognition due to the quality of format and content. In 1977, the Bank founded the publishing house, EKARE whose main objective was to produce bibliographic material for Venezuelan children and adolescents. The children's book market in Latin America has greatly welcomed EKARE publications. Presently it is participating in the first Book Copublications Programme for Children with a tale and legend collection from the region in cooperation with Argentinian, Brazilian and Colombian publishers. EKARE has also extensively used bibliobuses in the Banco del Libro that serve as circulating bookshops as well.

The introduction of this publishing branch has turned the Banco del Libro into a pioneer institution in reading promotion in the area.

2.7. Reading Habit Promotion Activities

To perform these activities, the Banco del Libro uses its own libraries, bibliobuses and travelling boxes; promotes literary contests, contact with writers, educators, artists, philologists, folklorists, publishers and booksellers with the purpose of obtaining a greater mutual among them understanding and cooperation in activities designed to promote reading. One of its most innovating and original programmes is the one related "Vacational Programmes" that take place at the Central libraries Caracas and Guayana City. During the 30 day vacation period, libraries coordinate an intensive creation and training activity for children that stimulates reading and research habits. Every year an updated theme of interest is selected for children and youngsters to work on, starting with bibliographic research. In this activity, they employ puppets, paintings, dances, musical creations, theatre and literary creations among other things, developed through their previous book research.

(1) Banco del Libro. Annual Report, 1974, pg. 20

3. *CONTRIBUTION OF CENTRALIZED INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO THE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT: THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR THE PROMOTION OF BOOKS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN*

The Book, that model friend that offers everything and asks for nothing in return, presents us with unique advantages over the cinema, radio or television. It doesn't force us to dwell on what the advertising agencies would like us to and unlike the film industry, it doesn't limit us to the small amount of movies being shown at a given time. On the contrary, a reader has at his disposal a vast selection of the best works from yesteryear to ch present day. He can read that which interests him at his own pace, whenever, wherever and however he likes. This versalitily bestows upon the Book an inimitable value for both the education and entertainment of the reader. The Book also records and conveys past cultures thereby allowing us a profung understanding of and insight into them.

The Regional Centre for the Promotion of Books in Latin America and the Caribbean –CERLAL– was created to stimulate the production, diffusion and free circulation of books in Latin America and the Caribbean.

What is CERLAL?

CERLAL is an international organization formed by an Agreement between the Colombian government and UNESCO, later co-signees being: Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Costa Rica, Chile, Equador, El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela. Spain also forms part of CERLAL as an Affiliate Country. En 1981, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru made the initial gestures to become members. CERLAL's head office is at: Calle 70 No. 9-52, BOGOTA D.E., Colombia.

CERLAL's History

The Regional Centre for the Promotion of Books in Latin America and the Caribbean –CERLAL– forms part of a vast book promotion program sponsored by UNESCO in various areas of the world. Other Centres are located in Tokyo, Japan and Karachi, Pakistan for the continent of Asia; and Jaoundé, Camerún for the continent of Africa.

The creation of this Centre was fostered by UNESCO and the Colombian government. Then in 1969, a group of book publishing and distribution experts met in Bogota and recommended that the Centre should be established in Colombia, a country which happens to have a young but maturing publishing industry and which is geographically placed equidistant from the big publishing poles of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In April 1971, the Colombian government and UNESCO signed an agreement to the effect, which was later endorsed by the Colombian Congress with Legislation No. 27 of December 14, 1971. In 1977, the Agreement was amended and CERLAL's general area was expanded to include the Caribbean. In 1981, talks were initiated to discuss ways to coordinate CERLAL's subregional mechanisms: one in the South and another in the Caribbean.

Goals and Operations

According to Article 8 of CERLAL's Constitution, the Centre is committed to stimulate the production and distribution of books and the encourage reading habits, especially by assiting and establishment of local development programmes such as adequate national public and school library systems in each country.

To carry out these objectives, CERLAL is engaged in the following:

1. The stimulation of coordinated policy planning between government and private enterprises in the Region which are involved in the production, diffusion and distribution of books in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. Encouraging the adoption of certain measures designed to expand and coordinate the regional book market with the aim of eventually establishing a Common Market.
3. Encouraging national books promotion activities and participating in them jointly interested public and private enterprises.

4. Conducting systematic surveys on reading habits, levels and interests.
5. Conducting studies into different educational and socioeconomic sectors to discover the most appropriate form of stimulating reading habits.
6. Creating strategies for the efficient training and equipping of personnel involved in the production and difusion of books as well as stimulating reading habits in the market.
7. Conducting studies into copyrights while offering legal advice to governments, institutes and individuals so that these laws are respected in international conferences and by national legislation alike. Also in helping to formulate strategies enabling different peoples of the Region to have open access to the sources of universal culture.
8. Offering advice and collaboration to better the services provides by public and school libraries in the Latin America and Caribbean countries.
9. Compiling statistics and cataloging documents showing the production, distribution, commercialisation of and demand for books, and making this information available for examination by any of the regional countries.
10. To endeavour to regularly publish an up-to-date bibliography of those books produced in the Region.
11. Establishing an indexed, technical document and information service outlining each step from the creation and diffusion of a book to the reading of it, plus information on copyrights.

Organisation and Direction

The maximun authority in CERLAL is the "Council" which is made up of representative from the Founding Country, the member countries and UNESCO.

The Executive Committee, being comprised of representatives from UNESCO, the Colombian government and six countries named by the Council, which are: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Spain and Venezuela, offers immediate technical assistance to the Director of CERLAL.

The Director of the Centre is the executor of the policies laid out by the Council and Committee wich govern CERLAL's regional activity.

The Director is assisted by a Secretary General and two under-secretaries one technical and one administrative.

What does CERLAL do?

CERLAL's plans are not a little ambituous. The Centre is fully aware of the necessity to adapt its operative methods to the vast needs of the Region in the publishing and reading-promotion spheres.

CERLAL has noted that there are a number of different professional qualifications needed in both the public and private sectors of creation, production and circulation of the Book and has organised its programs around several "hubs" of activities which are explained as follows:

A. Personnel Training in every branch and section of book production, distribution and circulation.

In its 10 years of operation, CERLAL has organized 20 international and national courses dealing with a wide range of topics related to the publishing industry; namely copyrights, international circulation, art and book ilustration to name just a few, to which more than 500 people have participated from every Latin America and Caribbean country.

Lately, these courses have used audio-visual aids which has prompted CERLAL to sponsor the making of new audio-visual courses for librarians, booksellers, artists and book ilustrators.

B. Studies and Investigations. In order to concentrate on the real needs and pinpoint the specific problems facing book production and distribution in Latin America and the Caribbean, CERLAL is conducting its investigations in collaboration with government and private enterprises from every regional country and various international development agencies.

As a result of this collaboration, studies can be carried out to record book production in every country thereby enabling a positive national book policy to be introduced. It also allows an analytical breakdown of these studies, permitting a comparison of the problems inherent in the different areas plus up-to-date information on various subjects related to books and to reading.

Similar studies are being conducted on import tariffs for books or their raw materials, on costo

structure and the personnel training necessary in the publishing sector, on school and public libraries, on university publishing characteristics and regional needs and on the production and distribution of government publications. These are some of the most important studies that CERLAL is presently involved in.

In the reading field, one of the most important tasks being carried out at the present is an investigation into reading habits and interests in Latin America and the Caribbean. The aim of this investigations is to provide the public and private sectors of the regional publishing industry in each country with facts and figures to enable them to formulate cultural and educational strategies while keeping a balance between the supply of books and the development of reading habits in the market. The investigation concentrates on children's reading habits, abilities and interests, to try and determine the main influencing factors in a child's early years that stimulate reading habits which will consequently remain in the adult. It examines, among other things, the possibilities offered by educational institutions to contribute to stimulating and encouraging reading habits in children. It also monitors the reading habits and interests of teaching staff and their resulting negative or positive efects on children's reading activities; how the frequency of parent's reading habits affect those of their children and whether this depends on the educational and socioeconomical background of the family, etc.; how a child's understanding of what he reads influences his abilities later on in life, his use of vocabulary and the number of words he can read in a minute.

In addition to the above, there are plans to develop an explanatory map that will present social models according to the acquired reading habits of children. This will outline concepts, methods and instruments used to permit similar studies in other Latin American and Caribbean countries.

These studies are conducted mainly in collaboration with national and international organizations like UNESCO; the International Development Investigation Centre –IDRC– of Canada; the International Federation of Associated Libraries and Librarians –IFLA–; the Executive Secretary of the Andrés Bello Agreement –SECAB–; the UNESCO Regional Offices for Latin America which deal with culture and education; and the Regional Centre of Superior Education for Latin America and the Caribbean –CRESALC–.

C. Copyrights. UNESCO-CERLAL Information Service. The subject, which holds great interest for Latin American and Caribbean countries today is dealt with in part by advice like that previously mentioned. However, constant reference is made to the national copyrights, and any changes which may occur to these due to influence on certain governments from the outcome of international conferences being held on the matter are duly noted.

An important contribution is made by the Regional Information Service which the Centre, in conjunction with the UNESCO's Copyrights Division offers. The Service collects, digests and makes available every piece of information related to this subject either from the Latin American and Caribbean countries or others which are of interest for the regional countries. It also attends special requests from governments and private enterprises while at the same time providing a service to inform and train personnel in the new technologies as they arrive and their resultant effect on copyrights. Comparative studies on copyrights laws in the countries of the Regional held through his programme.

D. Regional Book and Reading Information Service. In its quarterly magazine. CERLAL provides statistical and bibliographical information on production, translation, adaptation and commercialization of the Book in every Latin American nd Caribbean country and the Region as a whole. There is also a list with a brief description of each book printed in the Region during that period; a statistical yearbook on books in Latin America and the Caribbean will be published since 1982. Permanent information on scholarships, conferences, book exhibitions, researches in progress related to books and reading in Latin America and the Caribbean or the other countries, as well as information on specialized courses on book publishing and related themes.

F. Public and School Libraries are considered to be the prime factor in the information of reading interests and habits and book circulation. CERLAL puts special emphasis on the careful training of personnel for this type of library while encouring the collaboration of the regional

governments with these libraries enabling them to offer a better service. It also sponsors the training of professionals, and non-professionals alike in this field and acts as the vehicle for an exchange of knowledge and experience between all the countries in the Region.

G. Promoting interest in reading. In order to complement government and international organizations in their efforts to encourage constant reading habits in their populations, CERLAL helps organize national or international campaigns in the Region concerned. These activities to promote interest on reading, depending stances and local conditions, are directed at:

- Authors, illustrators and translators; by offering prices, encouraging talks in classrooms, and offering television and radio coverage for conferences and public debates.
- Editors, booksellers and distributions; by helping in the organization for national and book trade fairs, helping to establish school bookshops and bookshop-libraries, organizing courses and conferences on book distribution and studies into community book-reading interests and needs.
- Communities, through local schools, libraries, etc.; reminding families of "story time", night-time, reading, encouraging community events to discuss reading matters or books, organizing reading clubs and group lectures and discussions for parents, publishing childrens' stories or literary creations in the community newspapers and other locally-produced publications, teaching children and youngsters to familiarize themselves with the various parts of a book, with basic techniques of book preservation and restoration and where they can choose books to read in their recreation time, while also organizing seminars to teach members of the same community to read, etc.

For these campaigns, help is sought from radio and television to enable an examination of the relationship between traditional oral and written tongues, to encourage the swapping of books and their conservation as instruments to record native cultures; to organize the publication of books describing new books on the market; to organize reading competitions, and particularly, speeches on specific books and the subject of reading; to encourage the printing of postage stamps with book motifs and finally to generally equip speakers for ocassional or regular talk shows about books on the radio and television.

When the campaigns have finished, government publishing companies and other professional organizations involved in book production and circulation are encouraged to coordinate policy planning with the aim of developing the sector on a national scale, or to incorporate said policies into the global planning of the Region as a whole, this being done by defining means to adapt them to the particular book-promotion policies employed by the other regional governments. This takes into account administrative laws covering book promotion and copyrights, tax contribution, Customs restrictions, unrestricted circulation, difficulties created by monetary controls which hinder the transfer of funds for importations or exportations and circulation of book within the Region.

H. Publications. In addition to didactic materials being prepared for the different courses and seminars being given by CERLAL and UNESCO or to provide back-up material as in the case of audio-visual aids, CERLAL produces a series of regular publications, like "Book News Magazine", wich together with "Bibliography Bulletin", is printed quarterly. The "Handbook of Foreign Book Courses and Scholarships", the "Latin American and Caribbean Book Statistics Yearbook", the "Monograph Series" concerned with national studies on the different aspects of book production and circulation and the collection called "Documents" which catalogues the results, conclusions, recommendations and reports on the different seminars organized by CERLAL.

Generally speaking, CERLAL's activities cover aspects concerning authors, editors, publishers, distributors, booksellers, librarians, readers and the governments of each country, these being the different stages involved in the creation, promotion and circulation of books.

CERLAL would like to work in close cooperation with the organizations involved in book productions and distribution; in the promotion of interest in reading and the development of school and public libraries.

Said requests could refer to courses, seminars, specialist investigations, help in conducting studies

into CERLAL's specialized areas, financial contributions or technical assistance to organize or take part in international book trade fairs in Latin America and the Caribbean, etc. Once an application has been examined by the Director of the Centre, it is passed on to the Executive Committee for their approval, they being the body responsible for coordinating programs and fixing the yarly budget based on guidelines previously established by CERLAL's Council.

Conclusion

Professional library organizations have at their disposal a number of expertly organized programs which they could participate in, if so desired, not only whith the idea of receiving benefits but also to contribute to the expansion and improvement of these services to all communities. A side benefit of this is the up-to-date training that all personnel involvel in said programmes will receive, enabling a thoroughly professional market attitude in all areas of library and information services.

ANEXO No. 1 - 112/PLE/8-E

ASOCIACIONES DE BIBLIOTECARIOS, DOCUMENTALISTAS Y ESPECIALISTAS DE LA INFORMACION EN AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

A. ASOCIACIONES NACIONALES (NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS)

ARGENTINA :

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECARIOS GRADUADOS DE LA REPUBLICA DE ARGENTINA -ABGRA-
Rodríguez Peña 846, 2o. Piso, Of. 6 - Casilla de Correo 68, Suc. 1
1401 BUENOS AIRES
(Presidente : Nilo Sidero)
Publica : boletín informativo, memoria anual, documentos ocasionales, actas, documentos de base de reuniones nacionales.

ASOCIACION DE EX-ALUMNOS DE LA ESCUELA NACIONAL DE BIBLIOTECARIOS
C/o. Biblioteca Nacional
México 564 - BUENOS AIRES

COLEGIO DE BIBLIOTECARIOS DE LA PROVINCIA DE BUENOS AIRES
Calle 48 No. 633, Piso 3 - Of. 315
1900 LA PLATA

ASOCIACION ARGENTINA DE BIBLIOTECAS Y CENTROS DE INFORMACION CIENTIFICOS Y TECNICOS
SANTA FE 1145
(Secretaria Ejecutiva : Olga E. Veronelli)
Publica : Unica catalog of scientific and technical publication

ASOCIACION ARCHIVISTA ARGENTINA
Avenida Córdoba 1556 - BUENOS AIRES
Agrupa organizaciones y personas interesadas en archivos históricos y administrativos. Promueve el estudio, el entrenamiento profesional y la investigación en este campo.
Publica : boletín

ASOCIACION BERNARDINO RIVADIVA - Biblioteca Popular
Avenida Colón 31 - 8000 BAHIA BLANCA
Publica : boletín informativo

COMISION PROTECTORA DE BIBLIOTECAS POPULARES
Callao 1540 - BUENOS AIRES
Publica : boletín

BARBADOS :

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF BARBADOS
P.O. Box 827 E - BRIDGETOWN
(Secretaria : Joan Brathwaite)
Publica : Boletín of the Library Association (anual)
Promueve el desarrollo y mantenimiento de bibliotecas y la cooperación entre ellas; reuniones.

BELIZE :

BELIZE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Central Library, Bliss Institute
P.O. Box 287
BELIZE CITY

BOLIVIA :

ASOCIACION BOLIVIANA DE BIBLIOTECARIOS -ABB-
Casilla 658 - COCHABAMBA

BRASIL :

ASSOCIACAO PAULISTA DE BIBLIOTECARIOS
Rua 13 de Maio 1100 - 3o. Andar G 32
01327 SAO PAULO - SP

FEDERACAO BRASILEIRA DE ASSOCIACIOES DE BIBLIOTECARIOS -FEBAB-
Rua Avanhandava 40, Conj. 110,
01306 SAO PAULO

ASSOCIACAO BRASILEIRA DE BIBLIOTECARIOS -IBBD-
Ave. General Justo 171, 4o. Andar
RIO DE JANEIRO

ASSOCIACAO DOS ARQUIVISTAS BRASILEIROS
Praia de Botafogo 186, Sala B - 217
22253 RIO DE JANEIRO

(Presidente : Marilena Leitì Paes)

Publica : Arquivo e Administracao

Coopera em organizaciones del gobierno nacionales e internacionales en todo lo relacionado con archivos y documentación; organiza cursos y conferencias.

ASSOCIACAO RIOBRANDENSE DE BIBLIOTECARIOS
CP 2344 Porto Alegre
RIO GRANDE DO SUL

COMISSAO BRASILEIRA DE DOCUMENTACAO AGRICOLA -CBDA-
C/o. Museu Paraense Emilio Goelde
CP 399, Belem, Para

(Secretaria : Cely Farias Raphael)

CONSELHIO FEDERAL DE BIBLIOTECONOMIA -CFB-
Edificio Mércia, Sala 211 - SC Sul - BRASILIA

(Secretario Ejecutivo :

Actúa como cuerpo fiscalizador y de control de las actividades profesionales en el Brasil; 10 Consejos regionales.

FEDERACAO BRASILEIRA DE ASSOCIACOES DE BIBLIOTECARIOS
Comissao Brasileira de Documentacao Juridica -FEBAB/CBDJ-
Rua Prof. Antonio Maria Teixeira 120 ap. 902
Leblon, 22430 - RIO DE JANEIRO

(Presidente : Nylma Thereza de Salles Velloso Amarante)

Publica : Revista Brasileira de Biblioteconomia e Documentacao Jornal da FEBAB

Actúa como coordinador de las asociaciones bibliotecarias a nivel nacional; sirve como centro de documentación y bibliografía para el Brasil.

INSTITUTO BRASILEIRO DE INFORMACAO EM CIENCIA E TECNOLOGIA -IBICT-
Ave. General Justo 171, 4o. Andar - RIO DE JANEIRO

Publica : Bibliografía Nacional corriente en ciencias puras y aplicadas.

Coordina los servicios de información científica y técnica, a través del país; mantiene el catálogo unido de publicaciones seriadas en agricultura y ciencias naturales, ciencia y tecnología, ciencias médicas. Desarrolla cursos especializados y de post-grado en información y documentación científica.

COLOMBIA :

ASOCIACION COLOMBIANA DE BIBLIOTECARIOS -ASCOLBI-
Apartado Aéreo 30883 - BOGOTA

Publica : Boletín

Contribuye al desarrollo económico, cultural y social del país, mediante el desarrollo integral de los servicios bibliotecarios, de documentación e información; promueve la cooperación e integración bibliotecaria: fomenta el intercambio de conocimientos y experiencias profesionales y el desarrollo de la enseñanza de la bibliotecología y las ciencias de la información.

BIBLIOTECARIOS AGRICOLAS COLOMBIANOS
C/o. Biblioteca de Tibaitatá
Apartado Aéreo 7984 - BOGOTA
(Secretaría : Héctor Galeano)

COLEGIO DE BIBLIOTECARIOS COLOMBIANOS
Apartado Aéreo 3212 - BOGOTA

Publica : boletín

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECARIOS AUXILIARES DE RISARALDA
Biblioteca Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira
PEREIRA
(Saúl Sánchez Toro)

ASOCIACION COLOMBIANA DE ARCHIVISTAS -ACAR-
Apartado Aéreo 6160 - MEDELLIN

GRUPO DE UNIDADES DE INFORMACION ESPECIALIZADA DE MEDELLIN -GUIE-
MEDELLIN

Elabora herramientas bibliográficas diversas que permitan suministrar información específica en forma rápida y oportuna. Capacitar al personal que labora en estas unidades de información y promover la cooperación y el intercambio de información.

ASOCIACION DE EGRESADOS DE BIBLIOTECOLOGIA Y ARCHIVISTICA DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE LA SALLE -ASEBIAR-
Calle 11 No. 1-47
BOGOTA

BIBLIOTECOLOGOS JAVERIANOS ASOCIADOS -BIJAVA-
Departamento de Bibliotecología
Facultad de Filosofía y Letras
Universidad Javeriana
Carrera 7a. No. 40-62
BOGOTA

COSTA RICA :

ASOCIACION COSTARRICENSE DE BIBLIOTECARIOS
Apartado 3308
SAN JOSE

(Secretaría General : Nelly Kopper)

Publica : boletín (irregular); anuario bibliográfico costarricense; responsable de la bibliografía nacional.

Vela por el mejoramiento y desarrollo de las bibliotecas y la capacitación técnica del personal que presta en ellas sus servicios. Fomenta la cooperación bibliotecaria dentro y fuera del país.

COLEGIO DE BIBLIOTECARIOS DE COSTA RICA
Biblioteca de la Universidad de Costa Rica
Telf. 25 73 72
SAN JOSE

Promueve e impulsa el estudio y enseñanza de la ciencia bibliotecaria; vela por la protección y dignificación de la profesión en todos sus aspectos.

CURACAO :

CURACAOSE ARCHIEF - BIBLIOTHEEK -EN DOCUMENTATIE VERENIGING - CABDV-
Drukkerijstraat 4,
WILLEMTAD

CUBA :

COLEGIO NACIONAL DE BIBLIOTECARIOS UNIVERSITARIOS
C/o. National Library
Plaza de la Revolución
LA HABANA

CHILE :

ASOCIACION CHILENA DE BIBLIOTECARIOS
Casilla 3741
SANTIAGO DE CHILE

Publica : Bibliotheka

COLEGIO DE BIBLIOTECARIOS DE CHILE
Diagonal Paraguay 383
Torre II, Departamento 122, Casilla 3741
SANTIAGO DE CHILE

Publica : boletín (trimestral); monografías seriadas de documentación; noticias (trimestral); Indices de publicaciones periódicas en bibliotecología (cada 2 años).

Vela por el prestigio, prerrogativas y ética de la profesión del bibliotecario, mantiene la disciplina profesional, defiende los derechos bibliotecarios y contribuye a su perfeccionamiento.

ECUADOR :

ASOCIACION ECUATORIANA DE BIBLIOTECARIOS -AEB-
Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana
Casilla 87
QUITO

Publica : Unidad bibliotecaria.

EL SALVADOR :

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECARIOS DE EL SALVADOR
Urbanización Gerardo Barrios, Polígono B, No. 5
SAN SALVADOR

Publica : Informa (mensual)

ASOCIACION GENERAL DE ARCHIVISTAS DE EL SALVADOR
Apartado Postal No. 644
SAN SALVADOR

GUATEMALA :

ASOCIACION BIBLIOTECOLOGICA GUATEMALTECA
C/o. Director Biblioteca Nacional de Guatemala
5a. Avenida 7-26, Zona 1
GUATEMALA

GUYANA :

GUYANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
76-77 Main Street
P.O. Box 110
GEORGETOWN
Publica : Bulletin

HONDURAS :

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECARIOS Y ARCHIVEROS DE HONDURAS
3 Avenidas, 4 y 5 Calles No. 416 Comayagüela,D.C.
TEGUCIGALPA
Publica : Catálogo de préstamo (mensual)

JAMAICA :

JAMAICA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 58
KINGSTON 5
Publica : Bulletin (anual)

MEXICO :

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECARIOS DE INSTITUCIONES DE ENSEÑANZA SUPERIOR E INVESTIGACION -ABIESI-
Apartado Postal 5-611
MEXICO 5, D.F.

ASOCIACION MEXICANA DE BIBLIOTECARIOS -AMBAC-
Apartado Postal 27-132
MEXICO 7, D.F.
Publica : Noticiero de la AMBAC (trimestral)

SOCIEDAD MEXICANA DE BIBLIOGRAFIA
Hemeroteca Nacional
Carmen y San Ildefonso
MEXICO, D.F.
Publica : Boletín (trimestral)

NICARAGUA :

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECAS UNIVERSITARIAS Y ESPECIALIZADAS DE NICARAGUA
Apartado 68
LEON
Publica ; boletín - Responsables : René María Meyer ; Walterio López

ASOCIACION NICARAGUENSE DE BIBLIOTECARIOS -ASNIBI-
Biblioteca Nacional
Ministerio de Educación Pública
Barrio "La Fuente"
MANAGUA

PANAMA :

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECARIOS GRADUADOS DEL ITSMO DE PANAMA
C/o. Director, Biblioteca de la Universidad de Panamá
Estafeta de la Universidad
PANAMA 3.

ASOCIACION PANAMEÑA DE BIBLIOTECARIOS
Apartado 3435
PANAMA
Publica : boletín

PARAGUAY :

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECARIOS DEL PARAGUAY
Casilla de Correos 1505
ASUNCION
Publica : Revista de bibliotecología y documentación Paraguaya

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECARIOS UNIVERSITARIOS DEL PARAGUAY
C/o. Profesor Yoshiko M de Fruendorfer
Head, Escuela de Bibliotecología
Universidad Nacional de Asunción
ASUNCION

COMISION PARAGUAYA DE DOCUMENTACION E INFORMACION
C/o. Instituto de Ciencias
Universidad Nacional
Ave. España 1098
ASUNCION

PERU :

ASOCIACION PERUANA DE BIBLIOTECARIOS
Bellavista 561
Apartado Postal 3760
LIMA 18
Publica : Carta informativa

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECAS AGRICOLAS
C/o. Biblioteca, Universidad Nacional Agraria
LA MOLINA, LIMA

ASOCIACION PERUANA DE ARCHIVEROS
Archivo General de la Nación
Calle Manuel Cuadros S/n.
Palacio de Justicia
Apartado 1802
LIMA

AGRUPACION DE BIBLIOTECARIOS PARA LA INTEGRACION SOCIO-ECONOMICA
-ABIISE-
Apartado 2874
LIMA 100
Publica : Directorio de bibliotecas especializadas del Perú.

PUERTO RICO :

SOCIEDAD DE BIBLIOTECARIOS DE PUERTO RICO
Apartado 22898
Universidad de Puerto Rico
Río Piedras
PUERTO RICO 00931
Publica : Boletín; Informa; Cuadernos bibliotecológicos; Cuadernos bibliográficos.

REP. DOMINICANA :

ASOCIACION DOMINICANA DE BIBLIOTECARIOS -ASODOBI-
Biblioteca Nacional
César Nicolás Penson, 136
SANTO DOMINGO
Publica : El Papiro

GRUPO BIBLIOGRAFICO NACIONAL DE LA REPUBLICA DOMINICANA
C/o. Emilio Rodríguez de Moizi,
Director Archivo General de la Nación
Calle Chiclana de la Frontera
SANTO DOMINGO

URUGUAY :

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECOLOGOS Y AFINES DEL URUGUAY
Entre Ríos 1118
MONTEVIDEO

AGRUPACION BIBLIOTECOLOGICA DEL URUGUAY
Cerro Largo 1666
MONTEVIDEO
Publica : Bibliografía uruguaya sobre Brasil; Bibliografía y documentación en el Uruguay; Bibliografía bibliográfica y bibliotecológica

ASOCIACION DE BIBLIOTECARIOS DEL URUGUAY
N/D Dicuy
1276 - Esc. No. 8,
Casilla de Correo 1415
MONTEVIDEO

TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO :

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
P.O. Box 1177
PORT OF SPAIN
Publica : Bulletin

VENEZUELA :

COLEGIO DE BIBLIOTECOLOGOS Y ARCHIVOLOGOS DE VENEZUELA
Apartado 6283
CARACAS
Publica : Boletín informativo.

B. ASOCIACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS)

Con sede en :

ARGENTINA

FUNDACION INTERAMERICANA DE BIBLIOTECOLOGIA
Franklin
BUENOS AIRES

COSTA RICA

ASOCIACION INTERAMERICANA DE BIBLIOTECARIOS Y DOCUMENTALISTAS AGRICOLAS -AIBDA-
IICA-CIDIA
Cód. Postal 7170
TURRIALBA
(Secretaria Ejecutiva : Ana María Paz de Erickson)

MEXICO

ASOCIACION LATINOAMERICANA DE ESCUELAS DE BIBLIOTECOLOGIA Y CIENCIAS DE LA INFORMACION -ALEBCI-
Colegio de Bibliotecología
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
MEXICO 20, D.F.

Contribuye de manera organizada y progresiva al perfeccionamiento de la educación en bibliotecología y ciencias de la información en América Latina.

PUERTO RICO

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITY, RESEARCH AND INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES -ACURIL-
Box S, University Station
SAN JUAN - PUERTO RICO 00931

Facilita el desarrollo y uso de las bibliotecas y fortalece las diversas colecciones para apoyar toda empresa cultural y educativa en el Caribe. Ayuda a enaltecer la profesión del bibliotecario y promueve actividades cooperativas para lograr esos fines.

JAMAICA

COMMONWEALTH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 534
KINGSTON

Publica : COMLA Newsletter

Promueve y mantiene vínculos entre bibliotecarios. Promueve el status y la educación de bibliotecarios y el reconocimiento recíproco de calificaciones.

Inicia proyectos de investigación.

BRASIL

FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE DOCUMENTACION
COMISION PARA AMERICA LATINA -FID/CLA-
Avenida W/3 Norte, Quadra 511, Bloco "A"
BRASILIA
Publica : Informaciones FID/CLA, Documentos de difusión.

Agrupa a nivel internacional organizaciones e individuos interesados en los problemas de documentación e información; promueve la investigación y desarrollo en el campo de la documentación e información y la aplicación de sus resultados; promueve el estudio, organización y práctica de la documentación e información con el fin de mejorar la comunicación dentro y entre varias disciplinas y campos de trabajo.

COLOMBIA

ASOCIACION REGIONAL DE BIBLIOTECARIOS ESCOLARES LATINOAMERICANOS Y DEL CARIBE.

(En proceso de creación).

IFLA - SECTION OF REGIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.
Apartado Aéreo 21817
BOGOTA

(Secretaria : Lucila Martínez de Jiménez)

Publica : IFLA Noticias (en Inglés y Español)

Estimula el desarrollo de programas para el mejoramiento de los servicios bibliotecarios y de información en los países de la región, para incorporarlos a los programas profesionales de IFLA. Actúa como organismo regional de IFLA en los asuntos relacionados con la participación en los programas de IFLA y verifica que los problemas de estos países estén reflejados en sus respectivos proyectos.